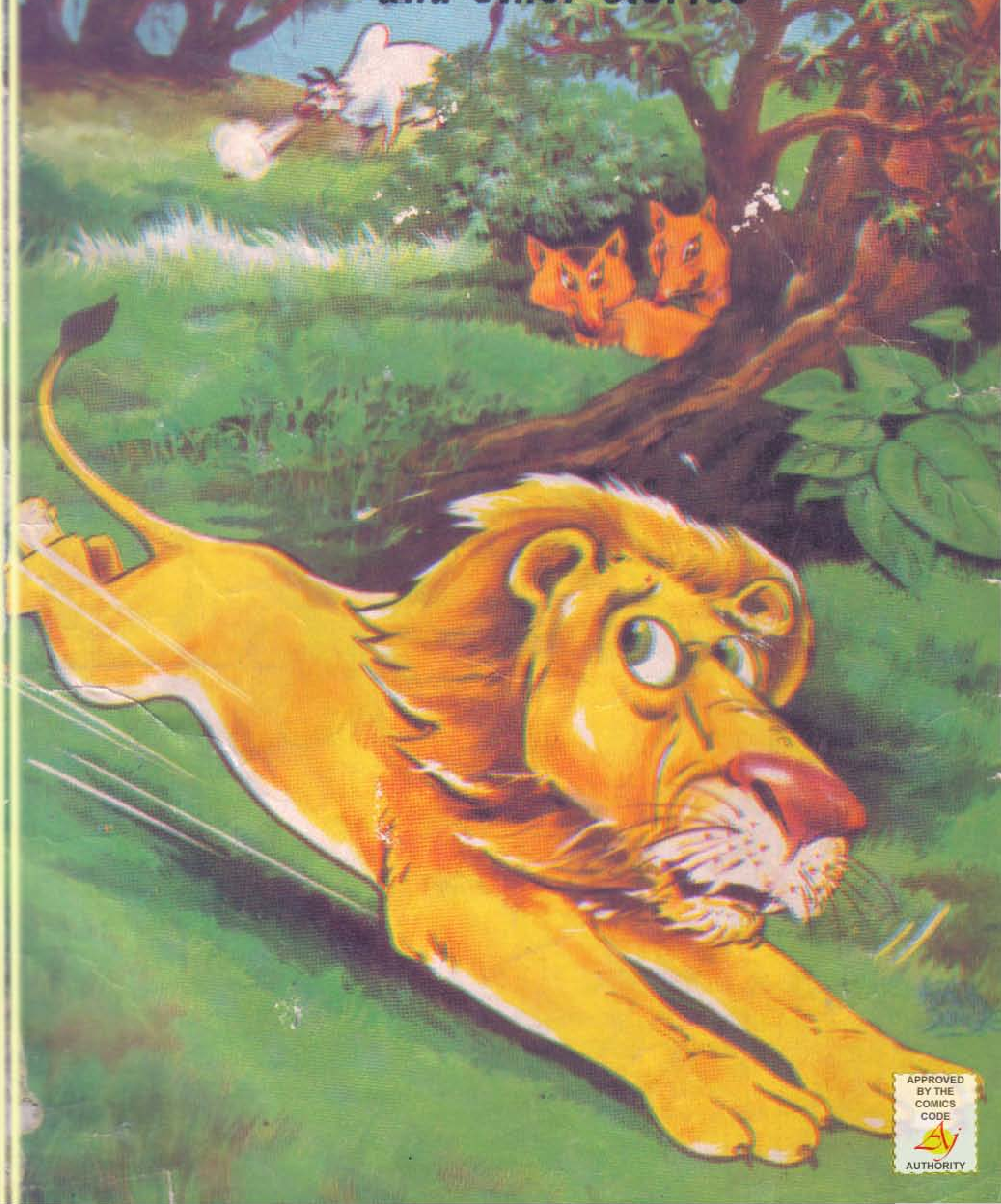
AMAR CHITRA KATHA

No.185

HITOPADESHA

HOW FRIENDS ARE PARTED and other stories



AMAR CHITRA KATHA

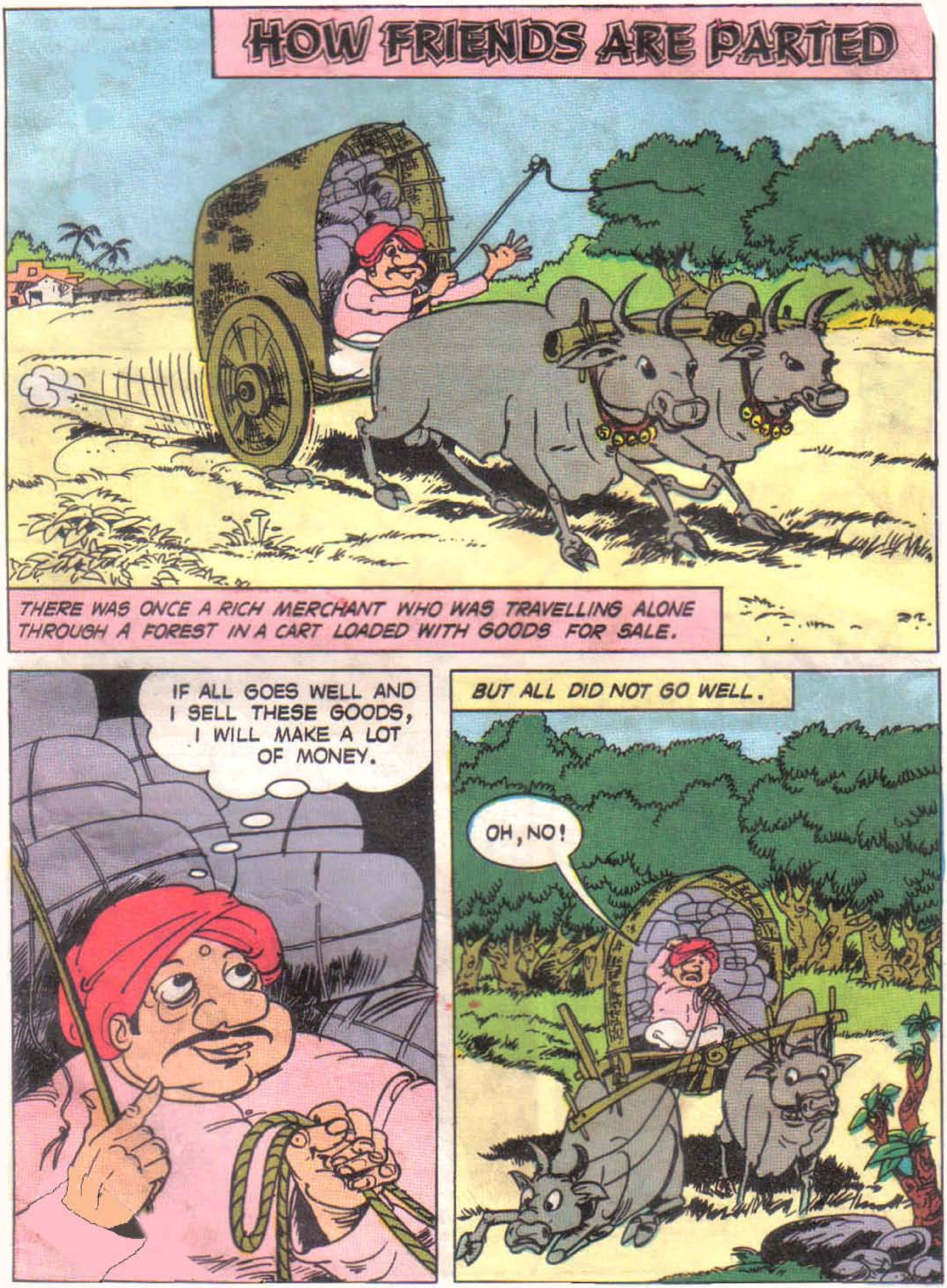
The *Hitopadesha* is a collection of fables in Sanskrit. This work, attributed to Narayana (11th or 12th century, A.D.), is based on the more famous *Panchatantra* which was written by Vishnu Sharma more than a thousand years earlier.

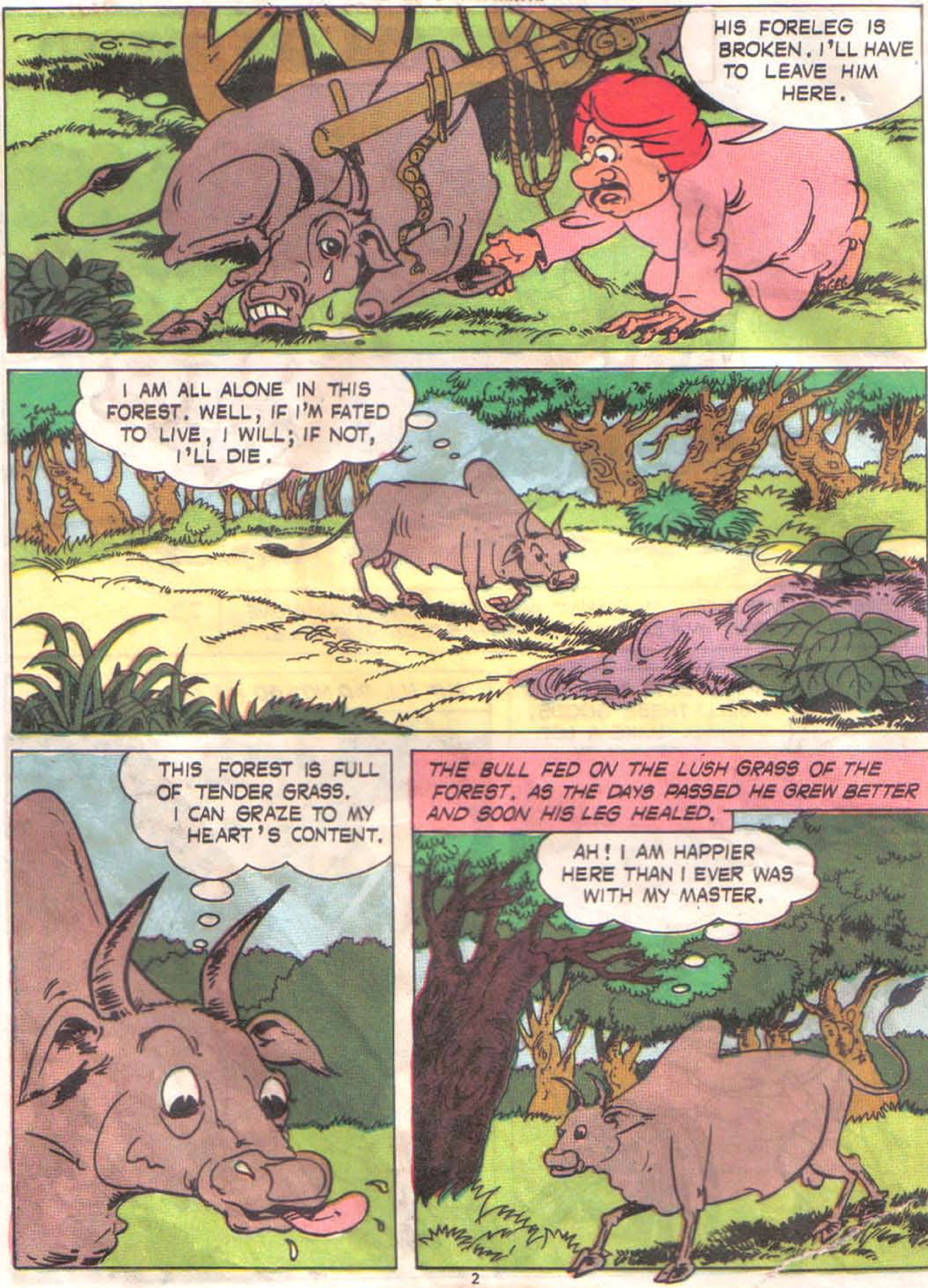
Although Narayana is indebted to Vishnu Sharma for his plots, he has introduced eighteen stories which are not to be found in the other versions of the *Panchatantra*.

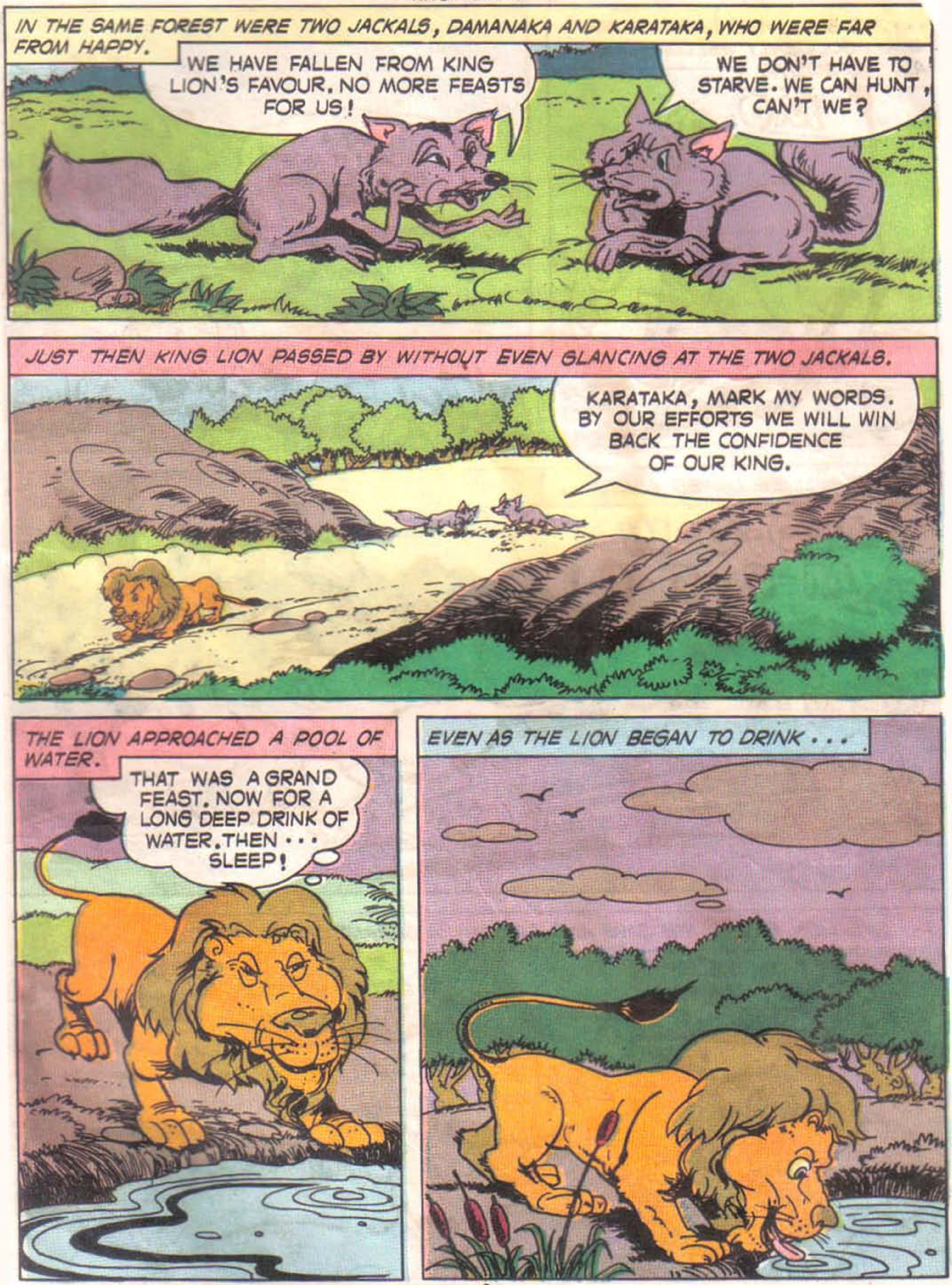
Narayana has divided his work into four sections: *Mitralabha* (Gaining Friends), *Suhrudbheda* (Causing Dissension Between Friends), *Vigraha* (Separation) and *Sandhi* (Union). The tales retold in this Amar Chitra Katha are taken from the *Suhrudbheda*.

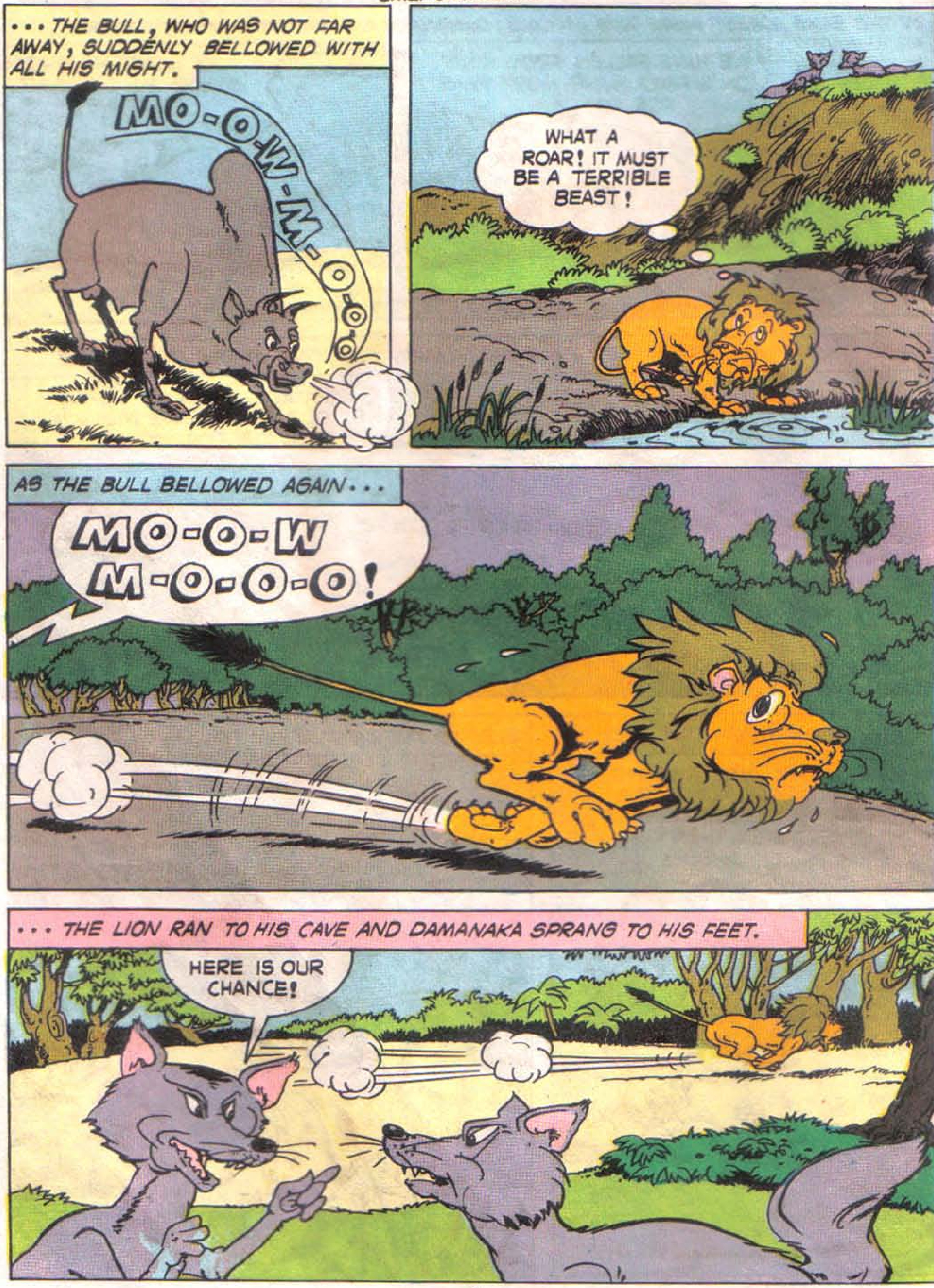
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Editor : **Anant Pai** Artworks : **Ashok Dongre**


HOW FRIENDS ARE PARTED
THERE WAS ONCE A RICH MERCHANT WHO WAS TRAVELLING ALONE THROUGH A FOREST IN A CART LOADED WITH GOODS FOR SALE.
IF ALL GOES WELL AND I SELL THESE GOODS, I WILL MAKE A LOT OF MONEY.
BUT ALL DID NOT GO WELL.
OH, NO!

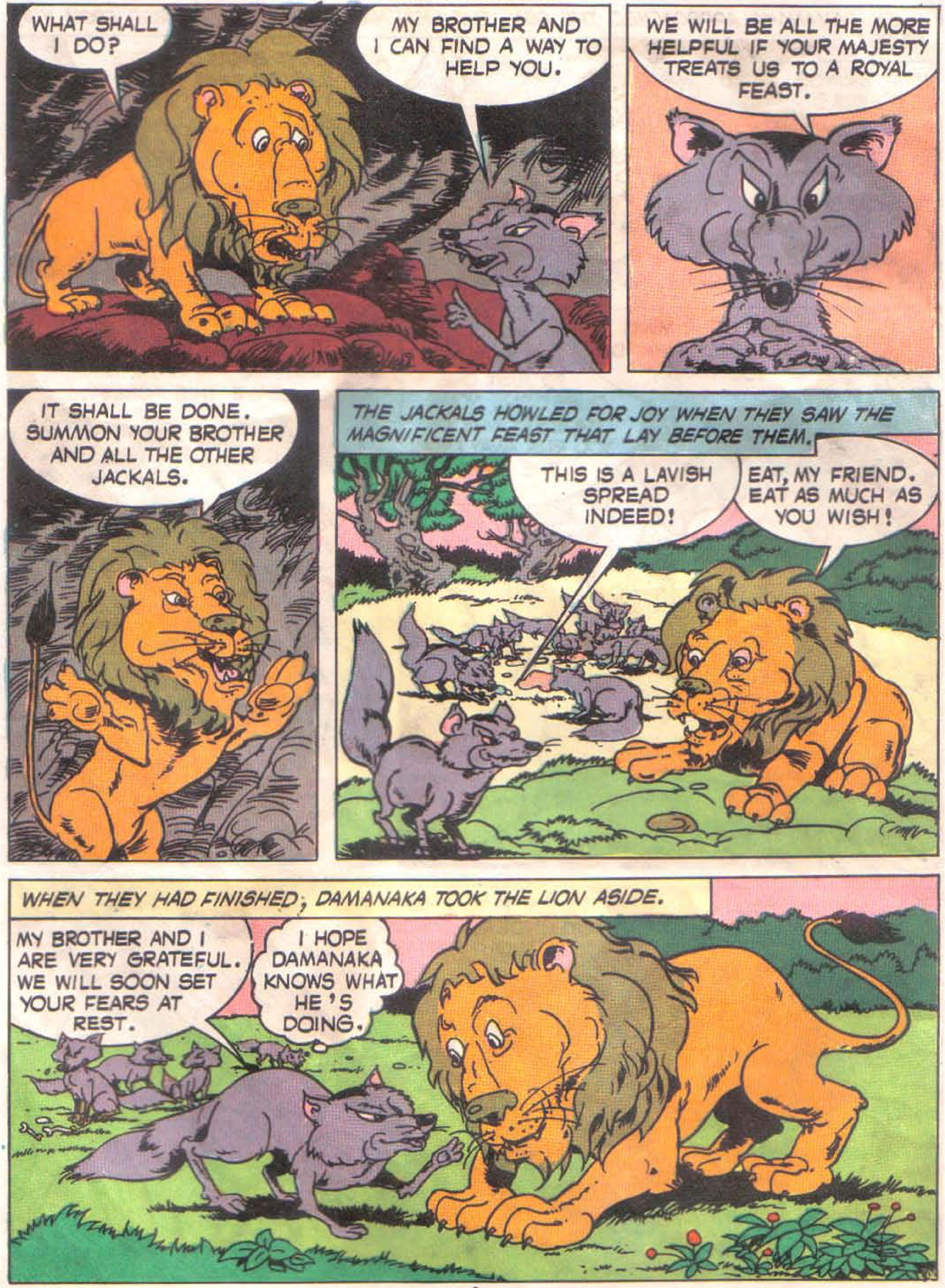

HIS FORELEG IS BROKEN. I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE HIM HERE.
I AM ALL ALONE IN THIS FOREST. WELL, IF I'M FATED TO LIVE, I WILL; IF NOT, I'LL DIE.
THIS FOREST IS FULL OF TENDER GRASS. I CAN GRAZE TO MY HEART'S CONTENT.
THE BULL FED ON THE LUSH GRASS OF THE FOREST. AS THE DAYS PASSED HE GREW BETTER AND SOON HIS LEG HEALED.
AH! I AM HAPPIER HERE THAN I EVER WAS WITH MY MASTER.

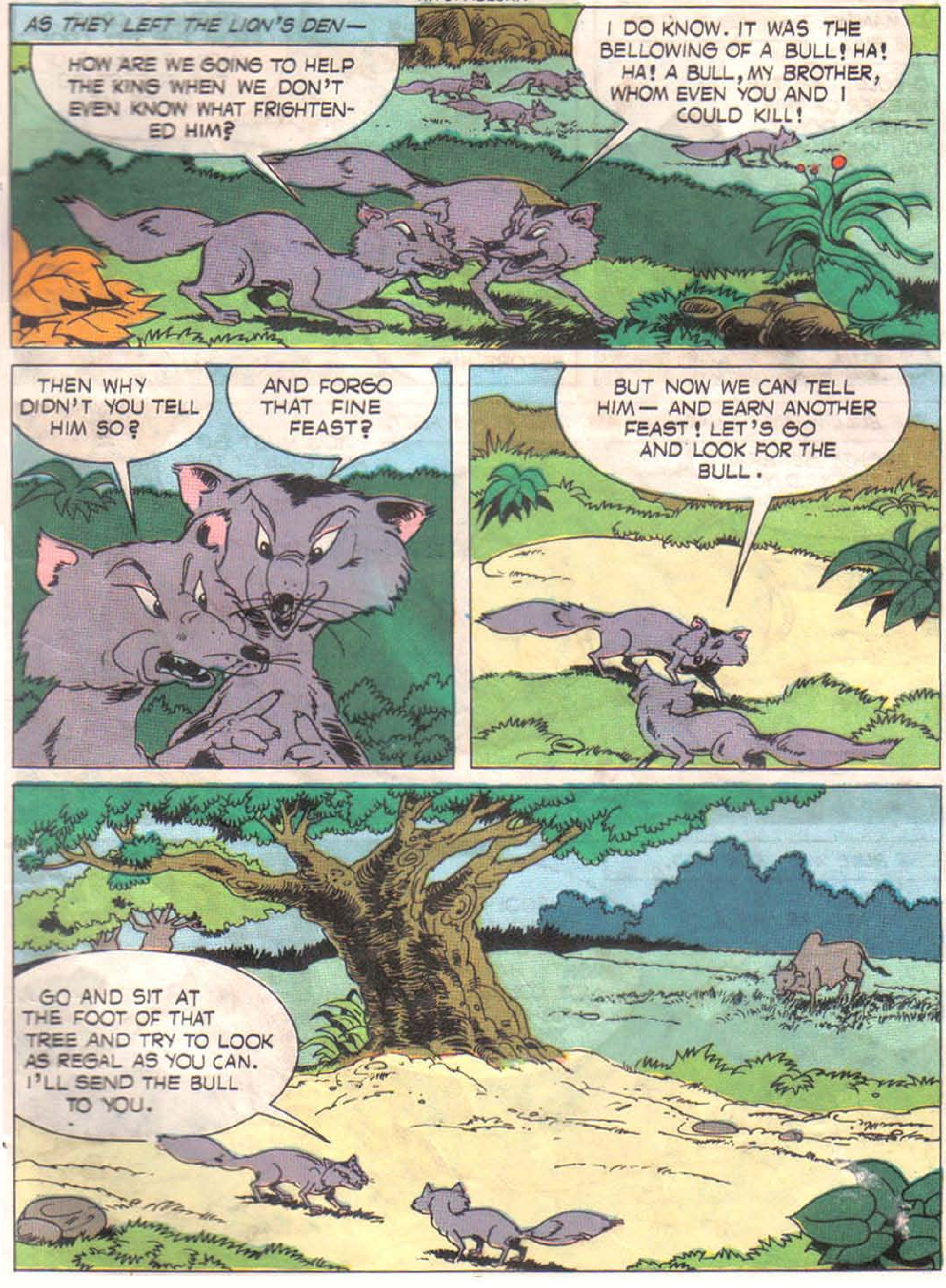

IN THE SAME FOREST WERE TWO JACKALS, DAMANAKA AND KARATAKA, WHO WERE FAR FROM HAPPY.
WE HAVE FALLEN FROM KING LION'S FAVOUR. NO MORE FEASTS FOR US!
WE DON'T HAVE TO STARVE. WE CAN HUNT, CAN'T WE?
JUST THEN KING LION PASSED BY WITHOUT EVEN GLANCING AT THE TWO JACKALS.
KARATAKA, MARK MY WORDS. BY OUR EFFORTS WE WILL WIN BACK THE CONFIDENCE OF OUR KING.
THE LION APPROACHED A POOL OF WATER.
THAT WAS A GRAND FEAST. NOW FOR A LONG DEEP DRINK OF WATER. THEN ··· SLEEP!
EVEN AS THE LION BEGAN TO DRINK . . .

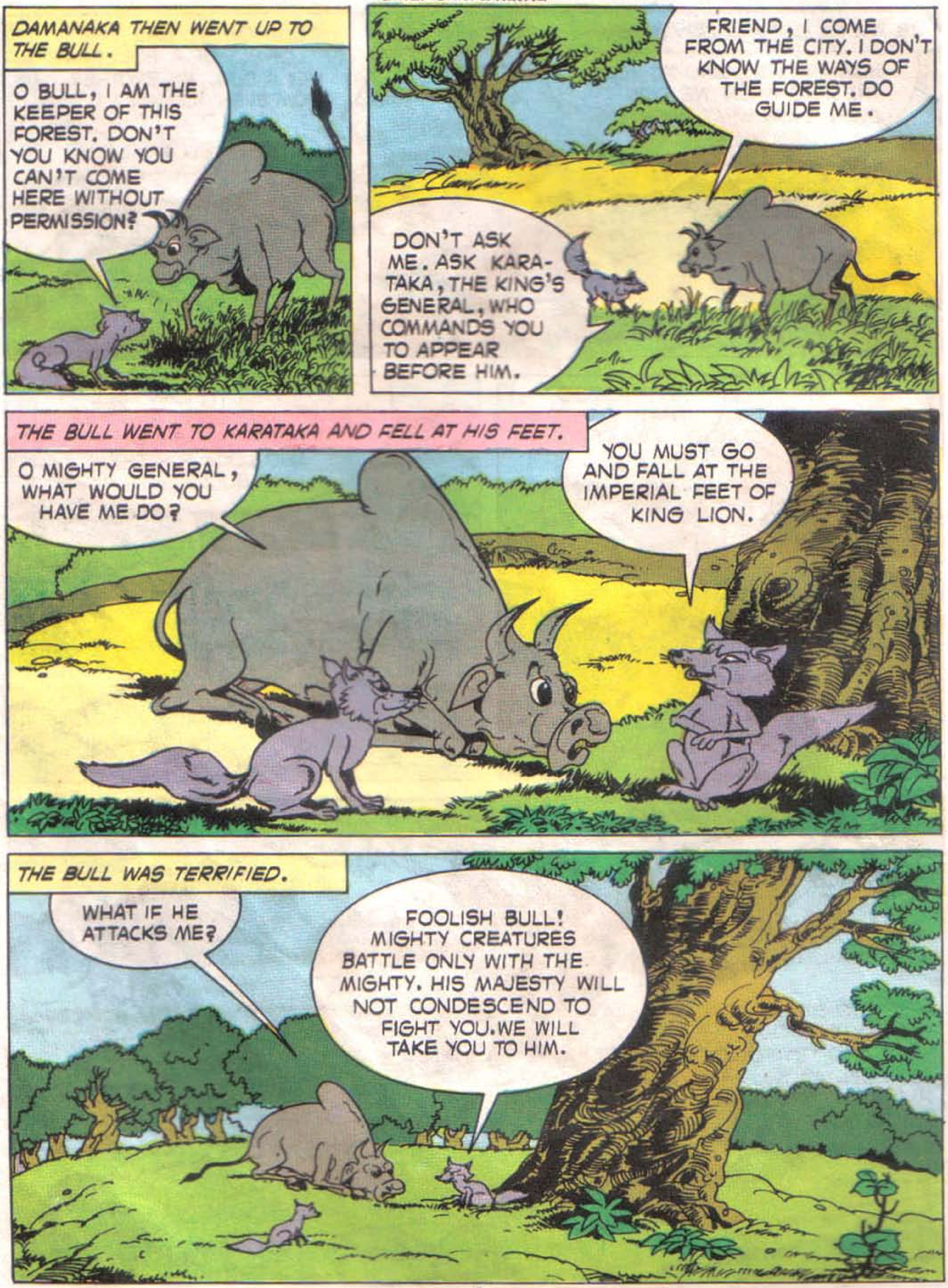


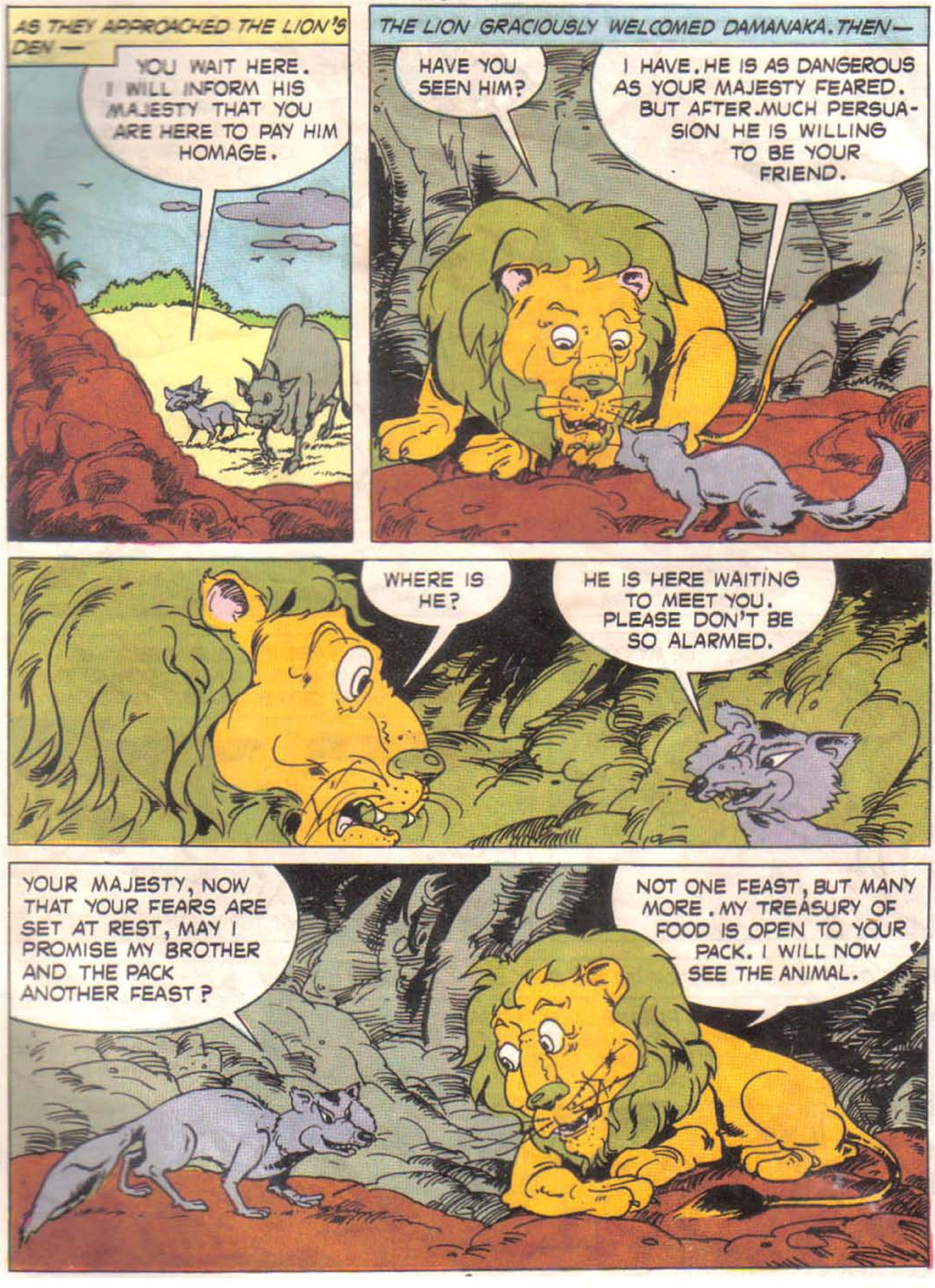
... THE BULL, WHO WAS NOT FAR AWAY, SUDDENLY BELLOWED WITH ALL HIS MIGHT.
MO-O-W-M-O-O-O
WHAT A ROAR! IT MUST BE A TERRIBLE BEAST!
AS THE BULL BELLOWED AGAIN...
MO-O-W M-O-O-O!
... THE LION RAN TO HIS CAVE AND DAMANAKA SPRANG TO HIS FEET.
HERE IS OUR CHANCE!

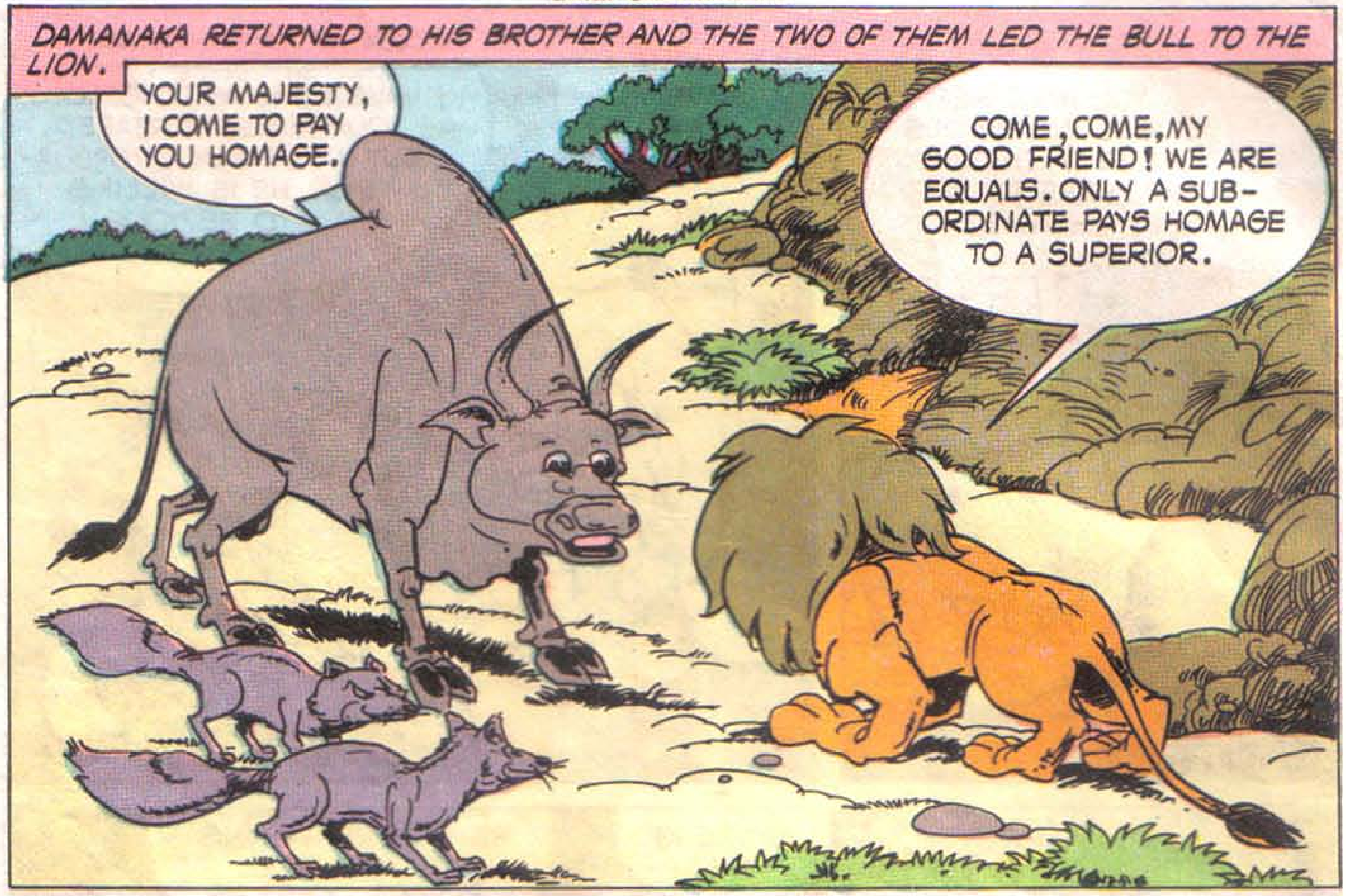

WHEN DAMANAKA APPROACHED THE DEN, THE LION HAD NOT YET RECOVERED FROM HIS FRIGHT.
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
A SERVANT SHOULD SERVE HIS MASTER. THAT IS WHY I HAVE COME.
SPEAK YOUR MIND FEARLESSLY. WHAT DO YOU WANT?
AN ANSWER TO JUST ONE QUESTION, YOUR MAJESTY. WHY DID YOU RUN AWAY FROM THE LAKE?
HUSH! SO YOU SAW ME. DON'T TELL ANYONE YET. BUT WE MAY HAVE TO LEAVE THIS FOREST.
BUT WHY, YOUR MAJESTY?
DIDN'T YOU HEAR THE THUNDERING ROAR OF A MIGHTY BEAST?


WHAT SHALL I DO?
MY BROTHER AND I CAN FIND A WAY TO HELP YOU.
WE WILL BE ALL THE MORE HELPFUL IF YOUR MAJESTY TREATS US TO A ROYAL FEAST.
IT SHALL BE DONE. SUMMON YOUR BROTHER AND ALL THE OTHER JACKALS.
THE JACKALS HOWLED FOR JOY WHEN THEY SAW THE MAGNIFICENT FEAST THAT LAY BEFORE THEM.
THIS IS A LAVISH SPREAD INDEED!
EAT, MY FRIEND. EAT AS MUCH AS YOU WISH!
WHEN THEY HAD FINISHED, DAMANAKA TOOK THE LION ASIDE.
MY BROTHER AND I ARE VERY GRATEFUL. WE WILL SOON SET YOUR FEARS AT REST.
I HOPE DAMANAKA KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING.

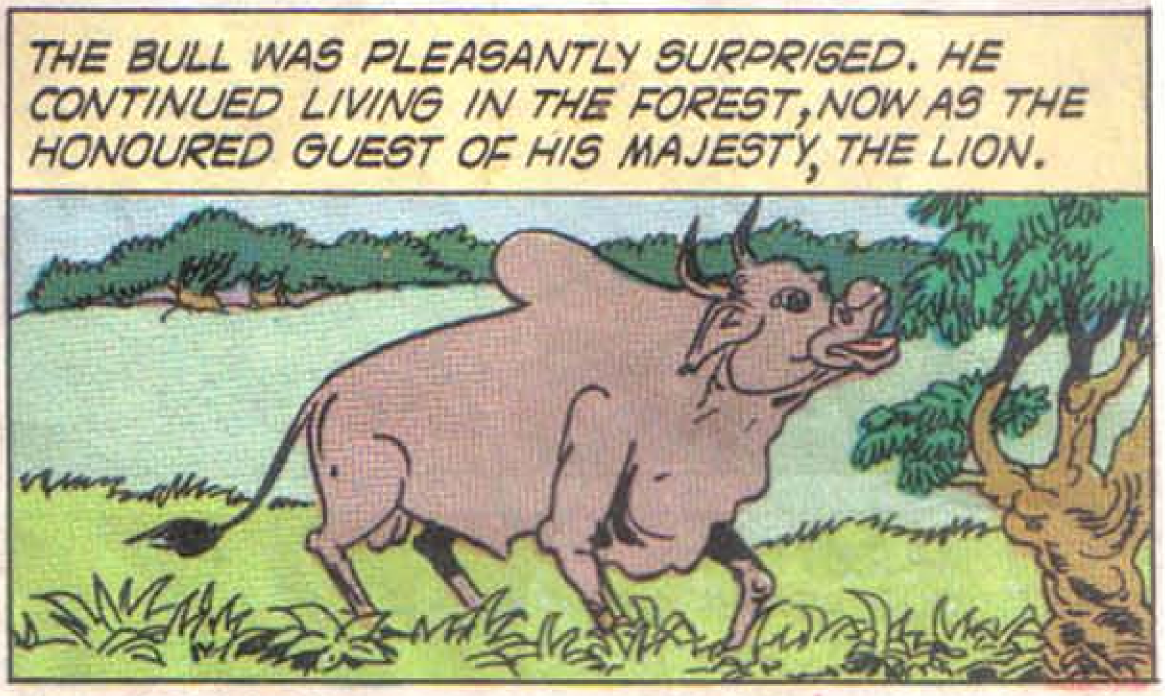

AS THEY LEFT THE LION'S DEN—
HOW ARE WE GOING TO HELP THE KING WHEN WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT FRIGHTENED HIM?
I DO KNOW. IT WAS THE BELLOWING OF A BULL! HA! HA! A BULL, MY BROTHER, WHOM EVEN YOU AND I COULD KILL!
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL HIM SO?
AND FORGO THAT FINE FEAST?
BUT NOW WE CAN TELL HIM— AND EARN ANOTHER FEAST! LET'S GO AND LOOK FOR THE BULL.
GO AND SIT AT THE FOOT OF THAT TREE AND TRY TO LOOK AS REGAL AS YOU CAN. I'LL SEND THE BULL TO YOU.

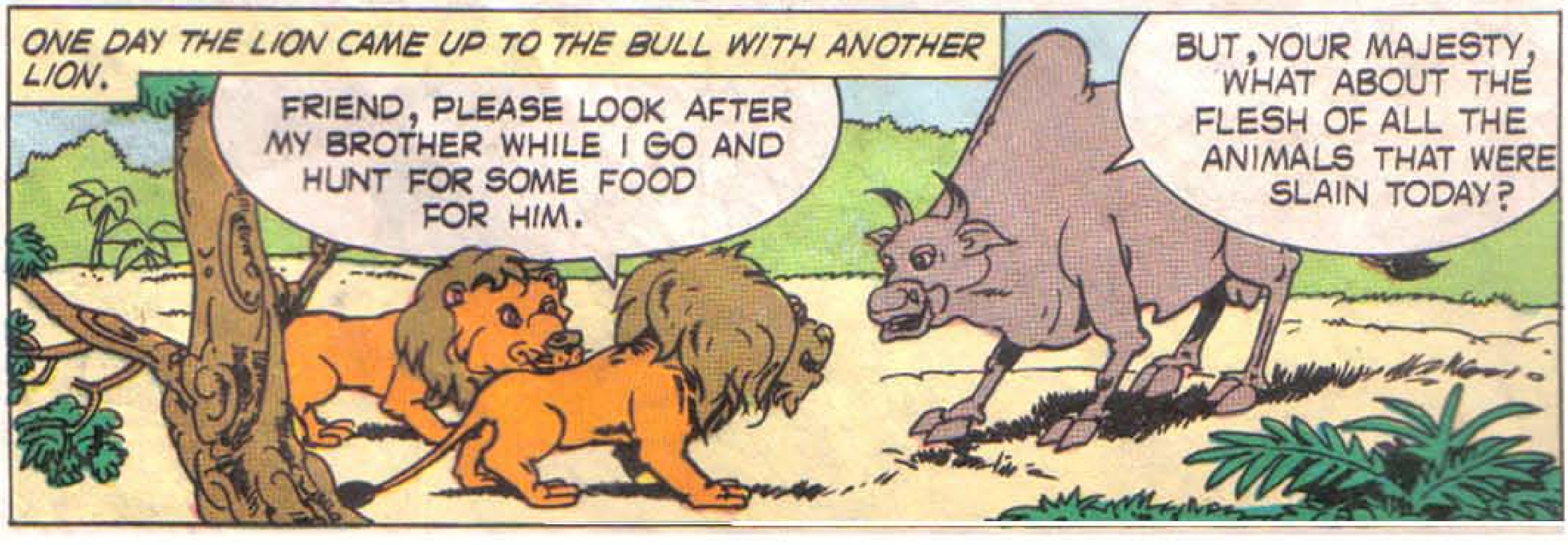

DAMANAKA THEN WENT UP TO THE BULL.
O BULL, I AM THE KEEPER OF THIS FOREST. DON'T YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T COME HERE WITHOUT PERMISSION?
FRIEND, I COME FROM THE CITY. I DON'T KNOW THE WAYS OF THE FOREST. DO GUIDE ME.
DON'T ASK ME. ASK KARA-TAKA, THE KING'S GENERAL, WHO COMMANDS YOU TO APPEAR BEFORE HIM.
THE BULL WENT TO KARATAKA AND FELL AT HIS FEET.
O MIGHTY GENERAL, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO?
YOU MUST GO AND FALL AT THE IMPERIAL FEET OF KING LION.
THE BULL WAS TERRIFIED.
WHAT IF HE ATTACKS ME?
FOOLISH BULL! MIGHTY CREATURES BATTLE ONLY WITH THE MIGHTY. HIS MAJESTY WILL NOT CONDESCEND TO FIGHT YOU. WE WILL TAKE YOU TO HIM.

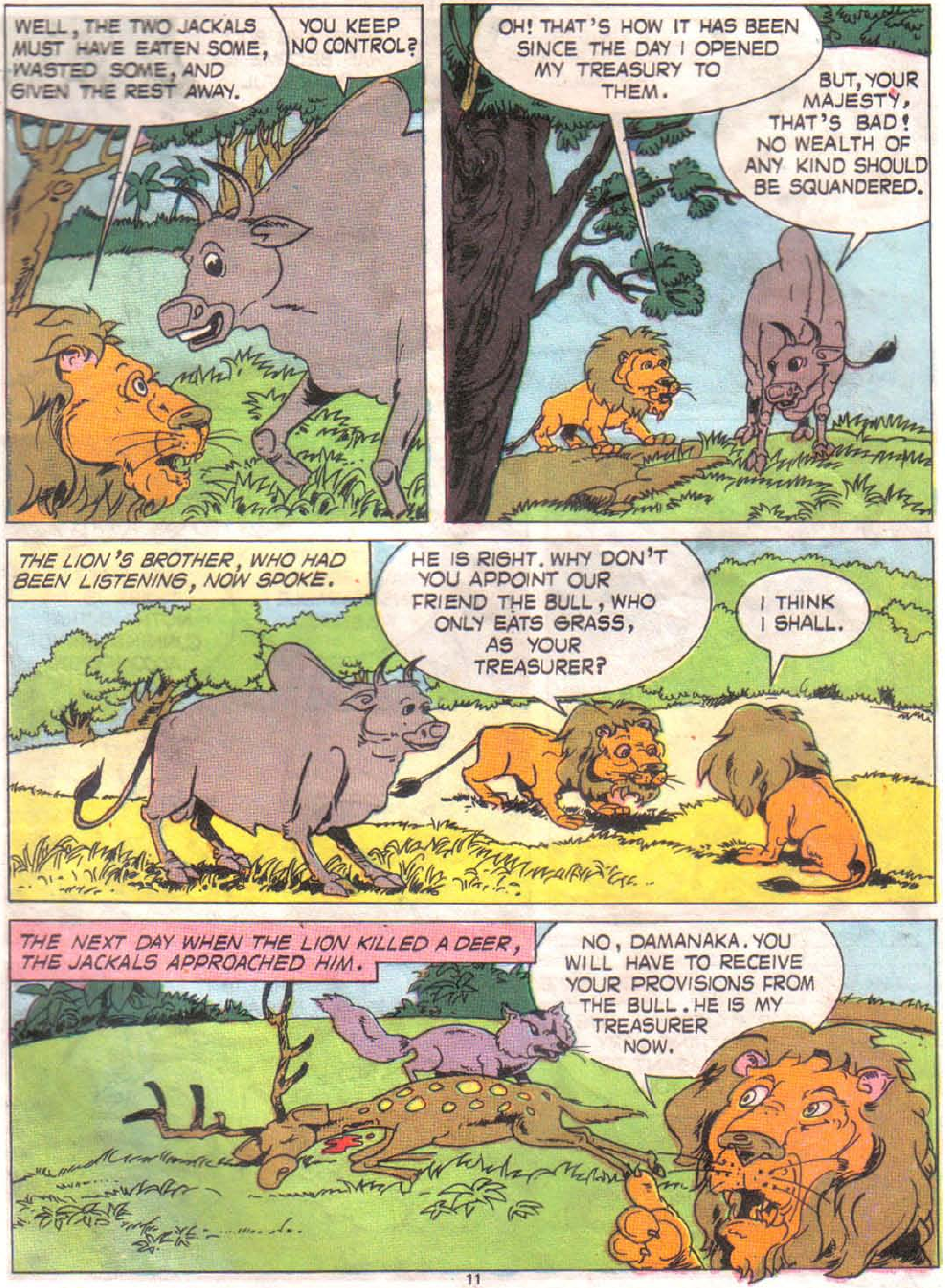

AS THEY APPROACHED THE LION'S DEN —
YOU WAIT HERE. I WILL INFORM HIS MAJESTY THAT YOU ARE HERE TO PAY HIM HOMAGE.
THE LION GRACIOUSLY WELCOMED DAMANAKA. THEN—
HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?
I HAVE. HE IS AS DANGEROUS AS YOUR MAJESTY FEARED. BUT AFTER MUCH PERSUASION HE IS WILLING TO BE YOUR FRIEND.
WHERE IS HE?
HE IS HERE WAITING TO MEET YOU. PLEASE DON'T BE SO ALARMED.
YOUR MAJESTY, NOW THAT YOUR FEARS ARE SET AT REST, MAY I PROMISE MY BROTHER AND THE PACK ANOTHER FEAST?
NOT ONE FEAST, BUT MANY MORE. MY TREASURY OF FOOD IS OPEN TO YOUR PACK. I WILL NOW SEE THE ANIMAL.

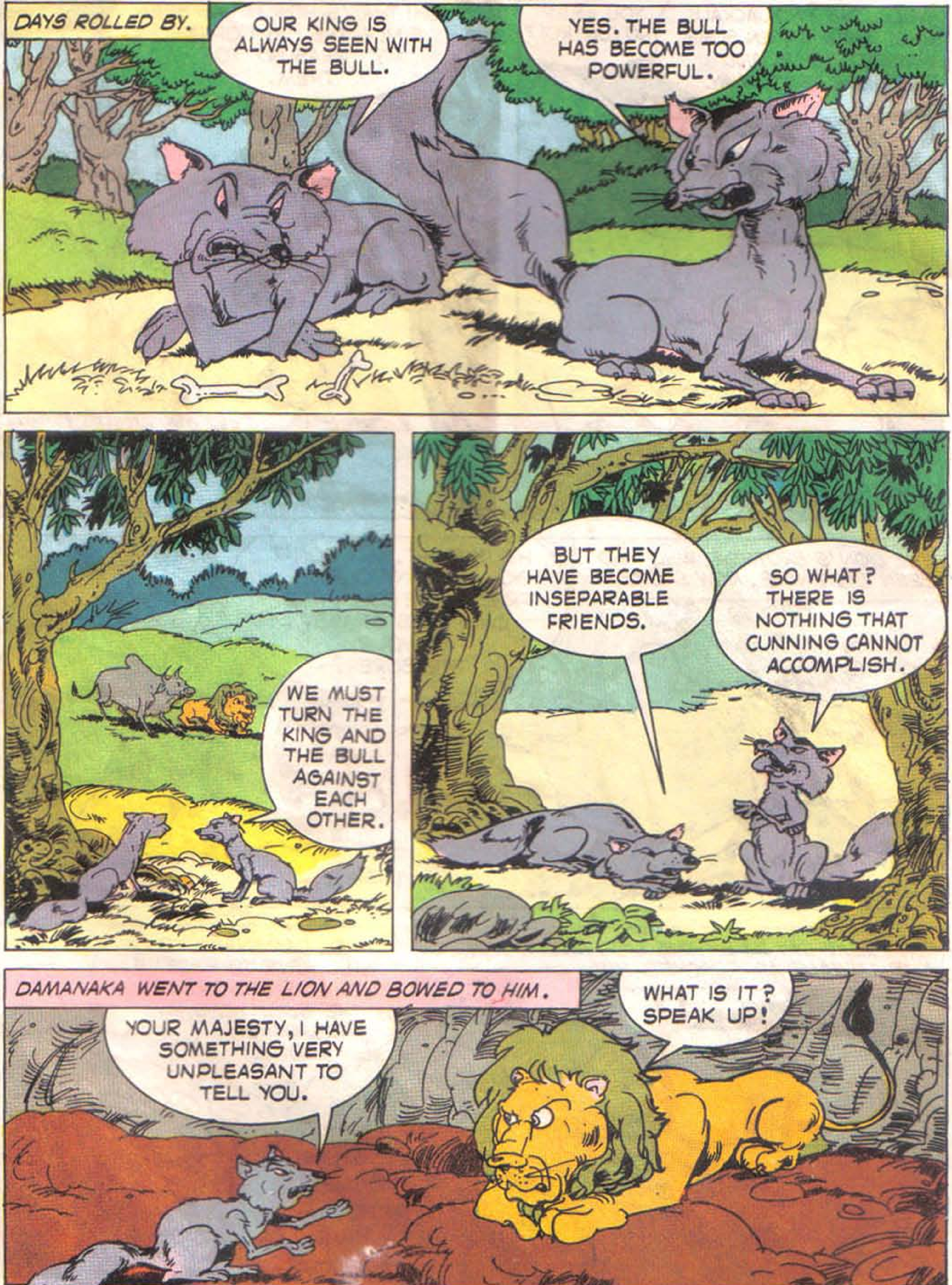

DAMANAKA RETURNED TO HIS BROTHER AND THE TWO OF THEM LED THE BULL TO THE LION.
YOUR MAJESTY, I COME TO PAY YOU HOMAGE.
COME, COME, MY GOOD FRIEND! WE ARE EQUALS. ONLY A SUB-ORDINATE PAYS HOMAGE TO A SUPERIOR.

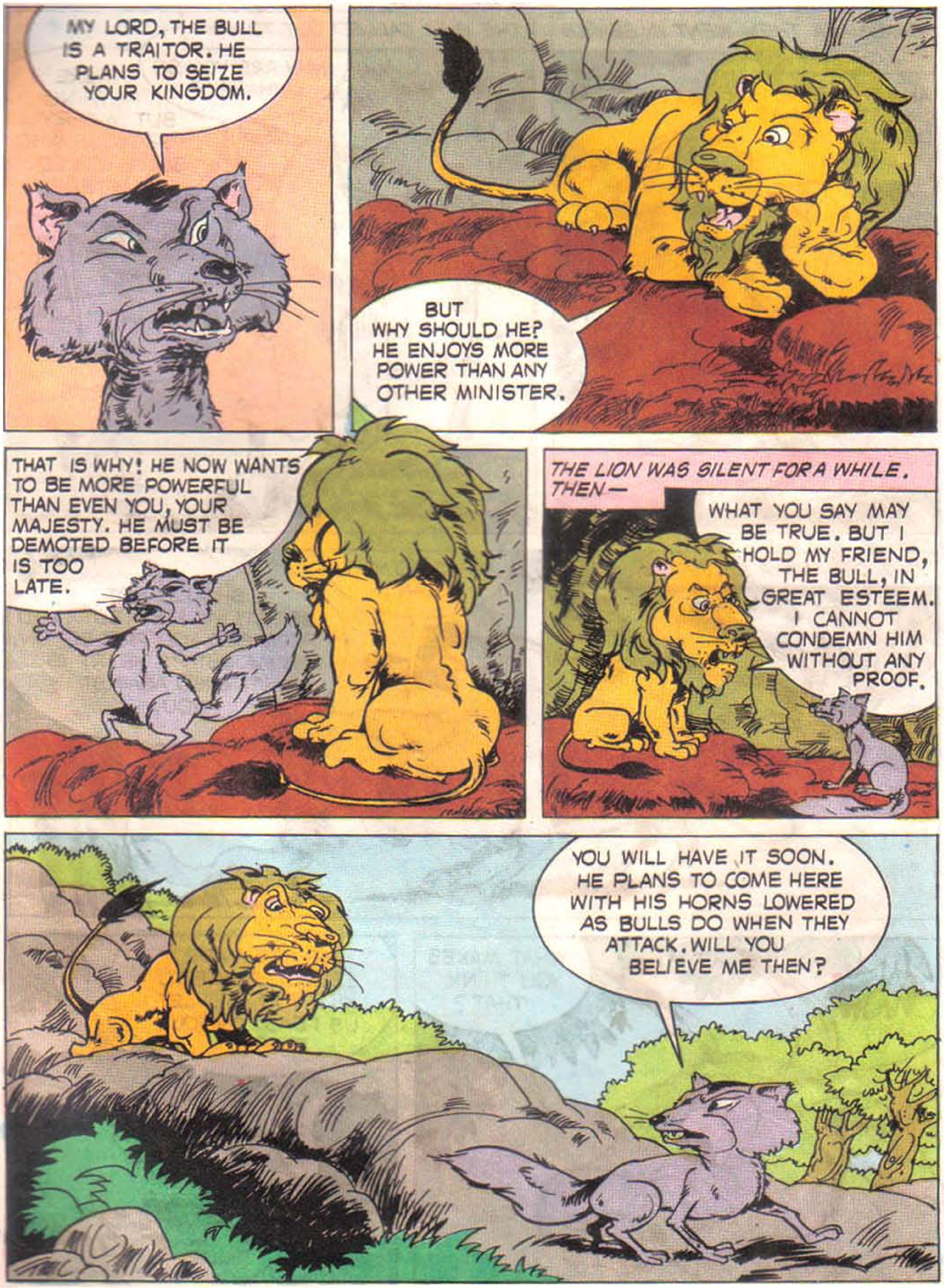

BE MY GUEST AND LIVE AS LONG AS YOU LIKE IN MY FOREST.

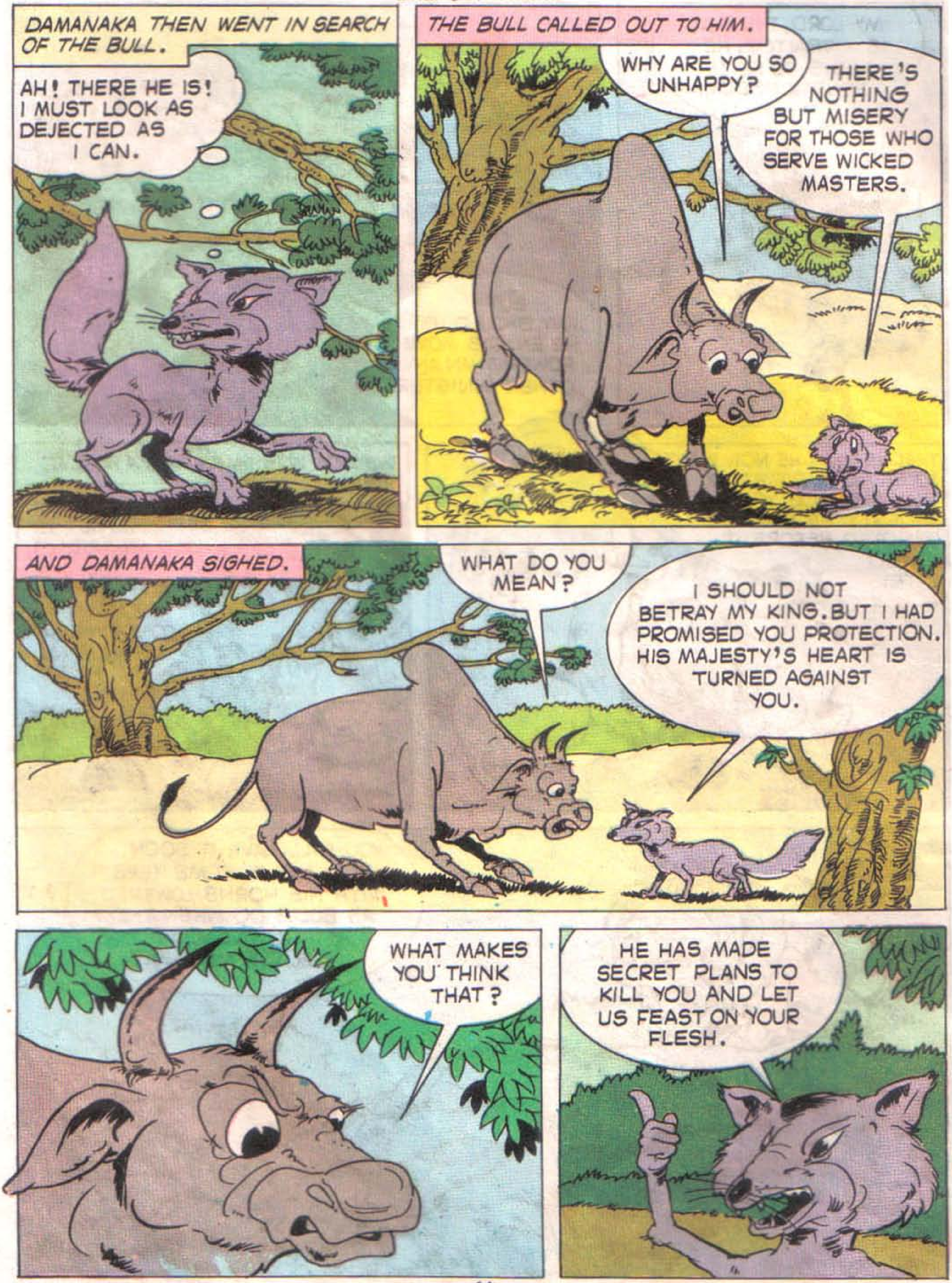

THE BULL WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED. HE CONTINUED LIVING IN THE FOREST, NOW AS THE HONOURED GUEST OF HIS MAJESTY, THE LION.

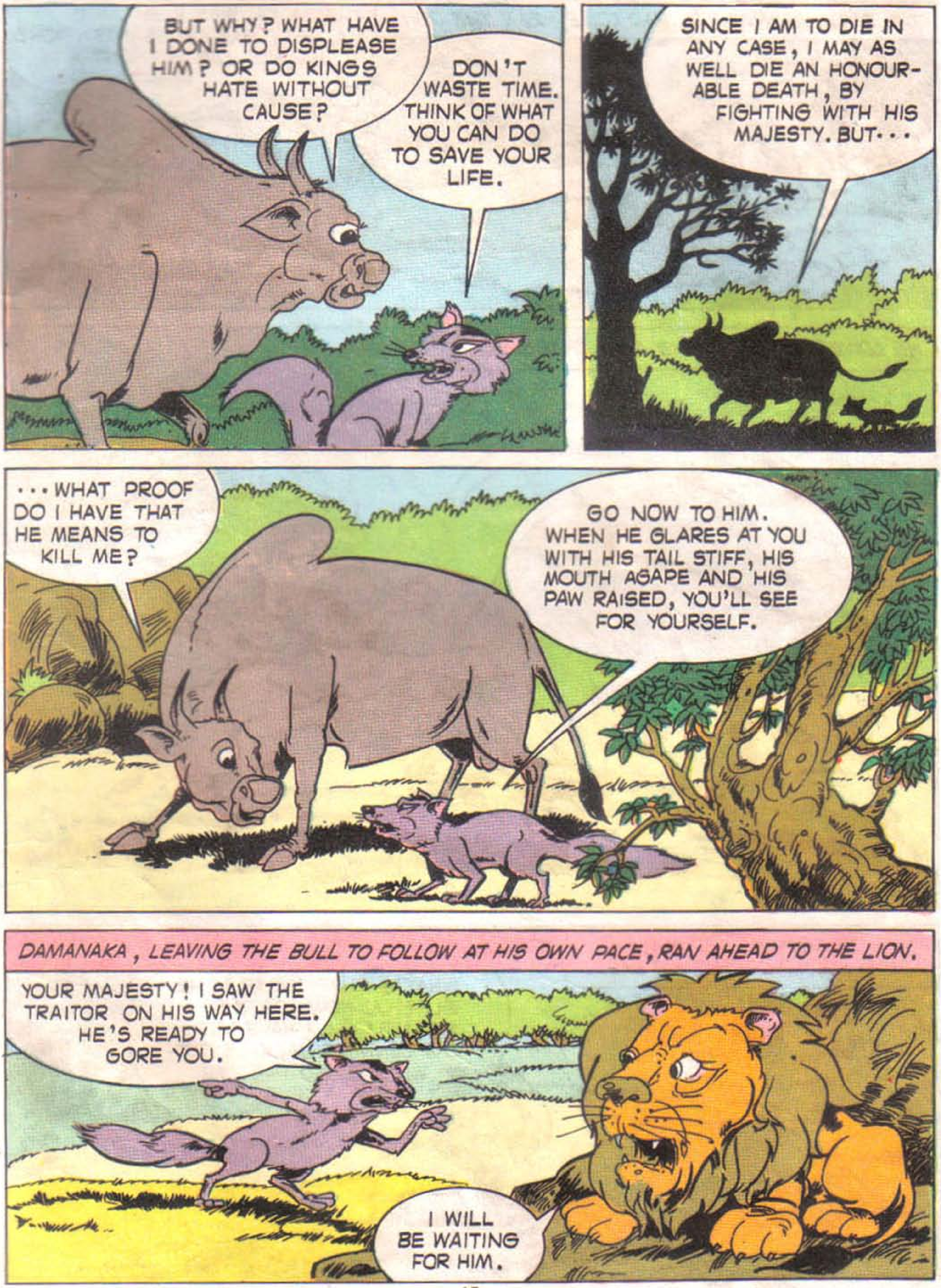

ONE DAY THE LION CAME UP TO THE BULL WITH ANOTHER LION.
FRIEND, PLEASE LOOK AFTER MY BROTHER WHILE I GO AND HUNT FOR SOME FOOD FOR HIM.
BUT, YOUR MAJESTY, WHAT ABOUT THE FLESH OF ALL THE ANIMALS THAT WERE SLAIN TODAY?

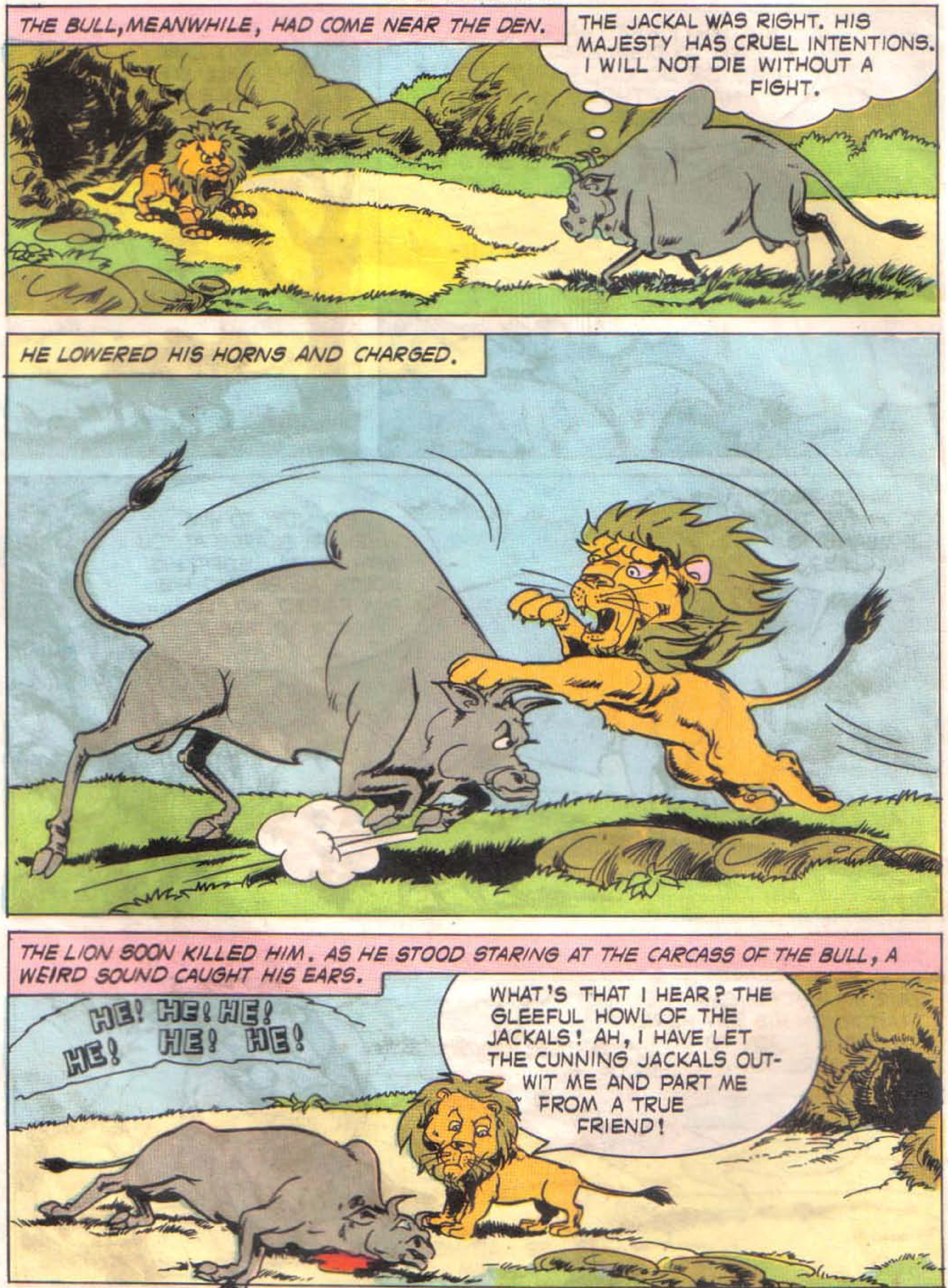

WELL, THE TWO JACKALS MUST HAVE EATEN SOME, WASTED SOME, AND GIVEN THE REST AWAY.
YOU KEEP NO CONTROL?
OH! THAT'S HOW IT HAS BEEN SINCE THE DAY I OPENED MY TREASURY TO THEM.
BUT, YOUR MAJESTY, THAT'S BAD! NO WEALTH OF ANY KIND SHOULD BE SQUANDERED.
THE LION'S BROTHER, WHO HAD BEEN LISTENING, NOW SPOKE.
HE IS RIGHT. WHY DON'T YOU APPOINT OUR FRIEND THE BULL, WHO ONLY EATS GRASS, AS YOUR TREASURER?
I THINK I SHALL.
THE NEXT DAY WHEN THE LION KILLED A DEER, THE JACKALS APPROACHED HIM.
NO, DAMANAKA. YOU WILL HAVE TO RECEIVE YOUR PROVISIONS FROM THE BULL. HE IS MY TREASURER NOW.

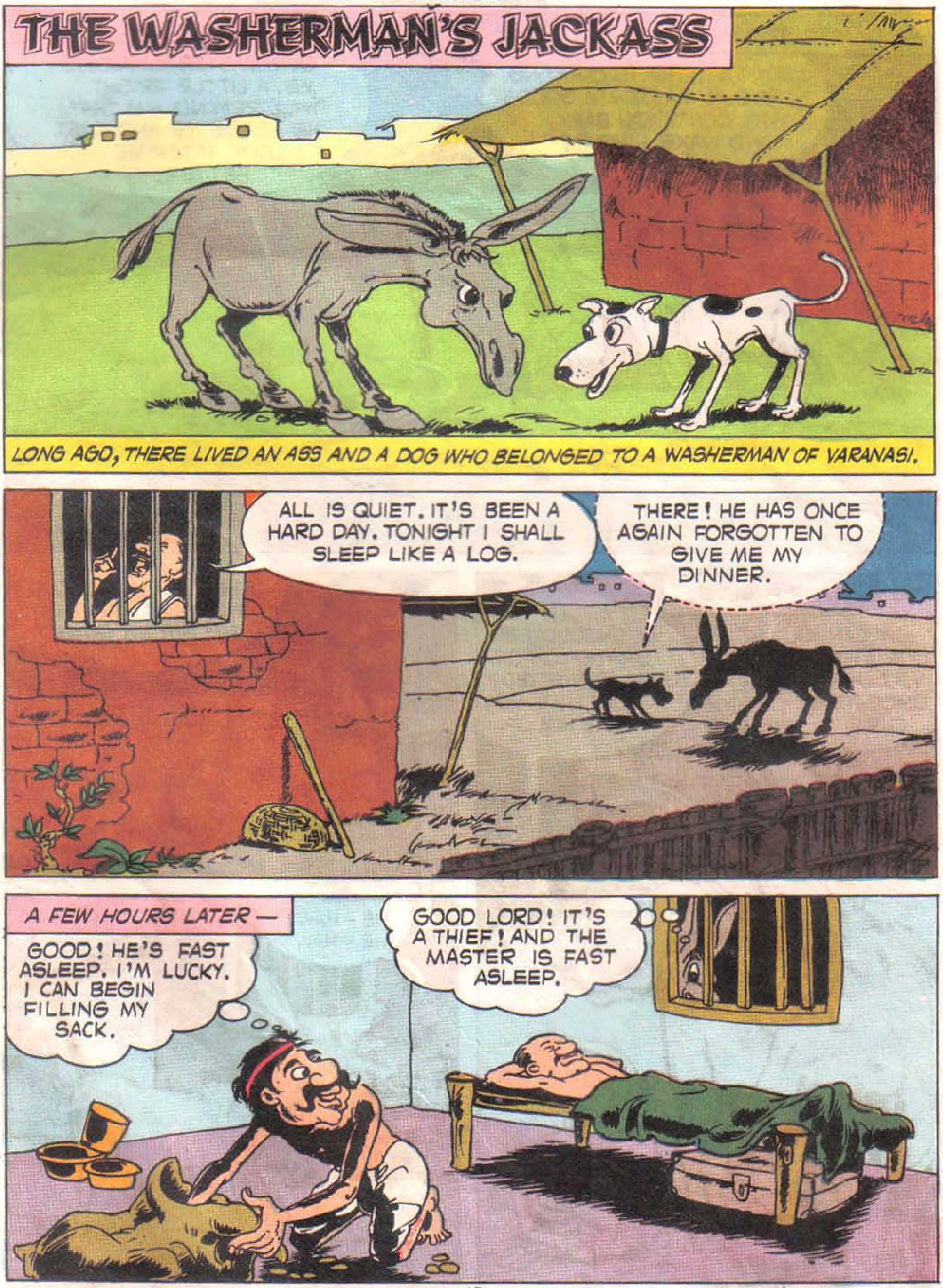

DAYS ROLLED BY.
OUR KING IS ALWAYS SEEN WITH THE BULL.
YES. THE BULL HAS BECOME TOO POWERFUL.
WE MUST TURN THE KING AND THE BULL AGAINST EACH OTHER.
BUT THEY HAVE BECOME INSEPARABLE FRIENDS.
SO WHAT? THERE IS NOTHING THAT CUNNING CANNOT ACCOMPLISH.
DAMANAKA WENT TO THE LION AND BOWED TO HIM.
YOUR MAJESTY, I HAVE SOMETHING VERY UNPLEASANT TO TELL YOU.
WHAT IS IT? SPEAK UP!

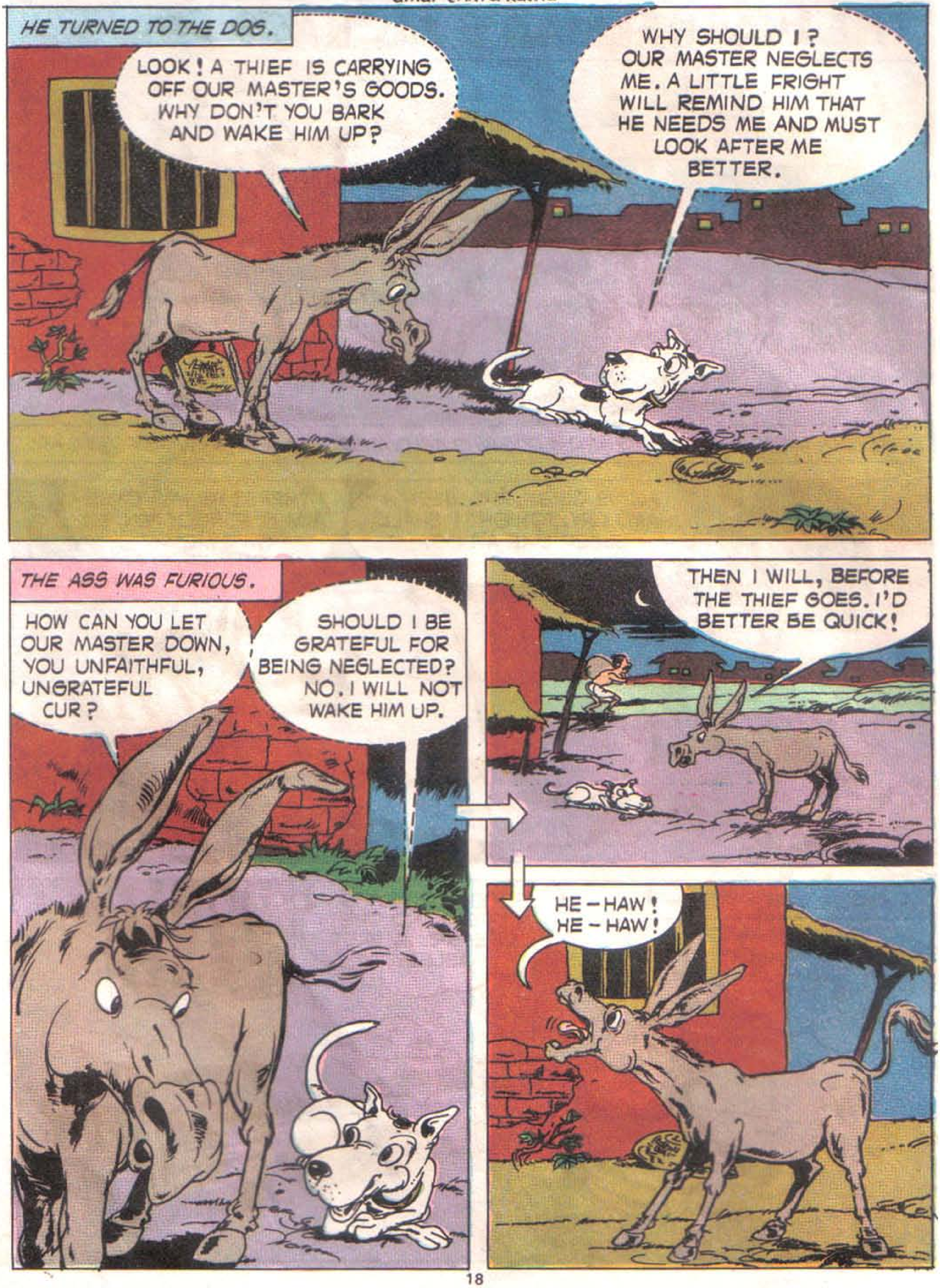

MY LORD, THE BULL IS A TRAITOR. HE PLANS TO SEIZE YOUR KINGDOM.
BUT WHY SHOULD HE? HE ENJOYS MORE POWER THAN ANY OTHER MINISTER.
THAT IS WHY! HE NOW WANTS TO BE MORE POWERFUL THAN EVEN YOU, YOUR MAJESTY. HE MUST BE DEMOTED BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.
THE LION WAS SILENT FOR A WHILE. THEN—
WHAT YOU SAY MAY BE TRUE. BUT I HOLD MY FRIEND, THE BULL, IN GREAT ESTEEM. I CANNOT CONDEMN HIM WITHOUT ANY PROOF.
YOU WILL HAVE IT SOON. HE PLANS TO COME HERE WITH HIS HORNS LOWERED AS BULLS DO WHEN THEY ATTACK. WILL YOU BELIEVE ME THEN?

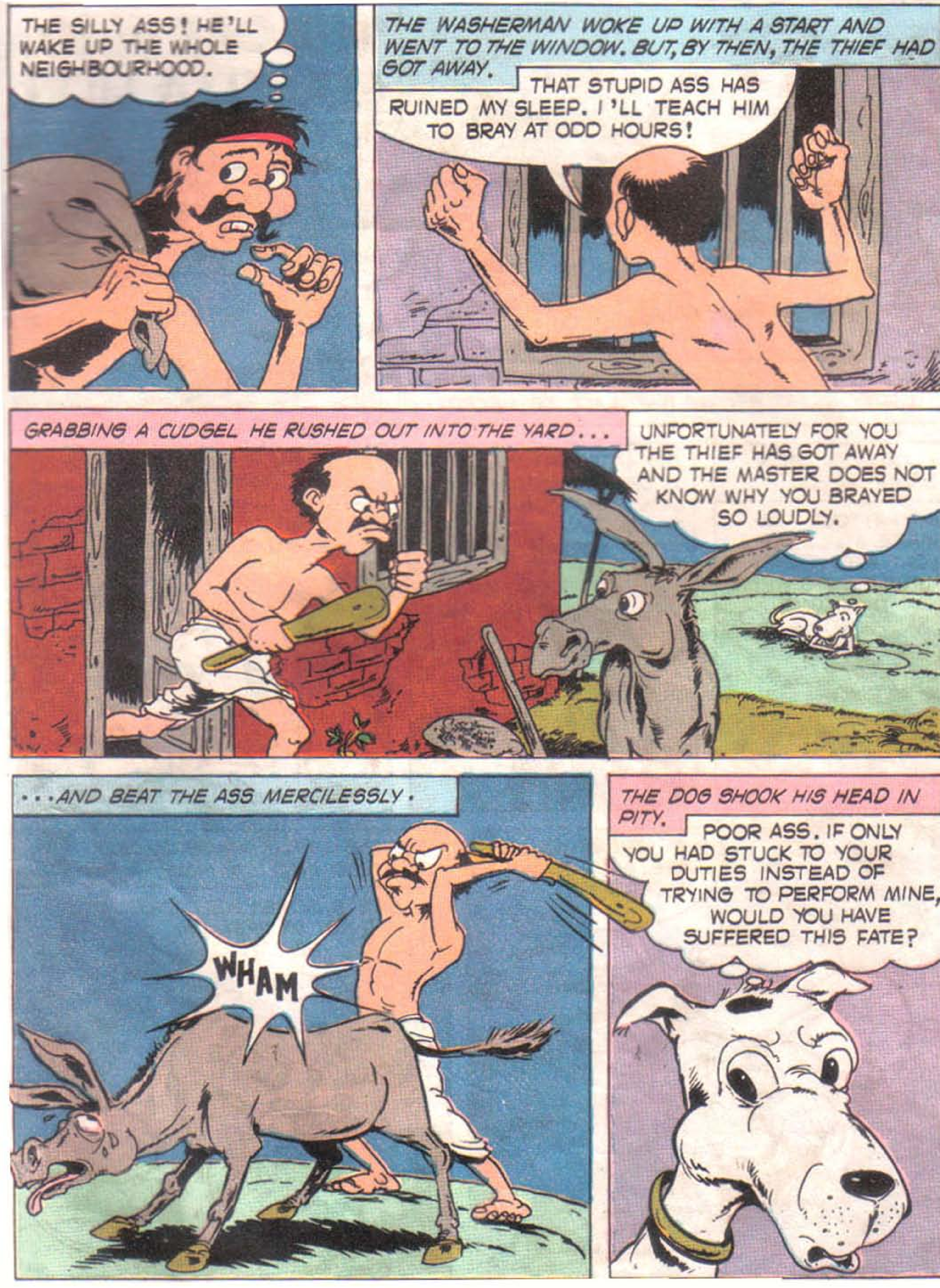

DAMANAKA THEN WENT IN SEARCH OF THE BULL.
AH! THERE HE IS! I MUST LOOK AS DEJECTED AS I CAN.
THE BULL CALLED OUT TO HIM.
WHY ARE YOU SO UNHAPPY?
THERE'S NOTHING BUT MISERY FOR THOSE WHO SERVE WICKED MASTERS.
AND DAMANAKA SIGHED.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I SHOULD NOT BETRAY MY KING. BUT I HAD PROMISED YOU PROTECTION. HIS MAJESTY'S HEART IS TURNED AGAINST YOU.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?
HE HAS MADE SECRET PLANS TO KILL YOU AND LET US FEAST ON YOUR FLESH.

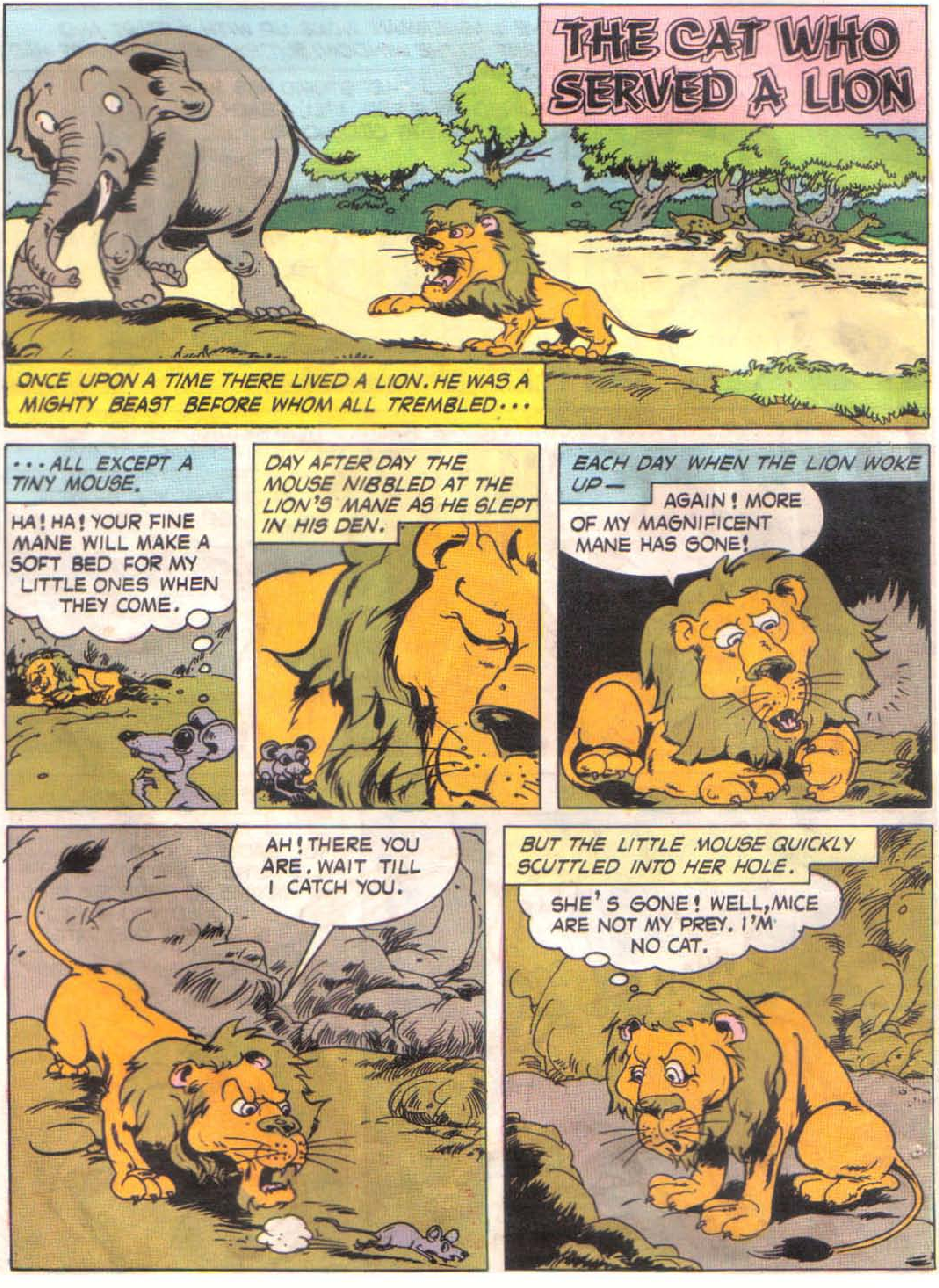

BUT WHY? WHAT HAVE I DONE TO DISPLEASE HIM? OR DO KINGS HATE WITHOUT CAUSE?
DON'T WASTE TIME. THINK OF WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SAVE YOUR LIFE.
SINCE I AM TO DIE IN ANY CASE, I MAY AS WELL DIE AN HONOURABLE DEATH, BY FIGHTING WITH HIS MAJESTY. BUT...
...WHAT PROOF DO I HAVE THAT HE MEANS TO KILL ME?
GO NOW TO HIM. WHEN HE GLARES AT YOU WITH HIS TAIL STIFF, HIS MOUTH AGAPE AND HIS PAW RAISED, YOU'LL SEE FOR YOURSELF.
DAMANAKA, LEAVING THE BULL TO FOLLOW AT HIS OWN PACE, RAN AHEAD TO THE LION.
YOUR MAJESTY! I SAW THE TRAITOR ON HIS WAY HERE. HE'S READY TO GORE YOU.
I WILL BE WAITING FOR HIM.

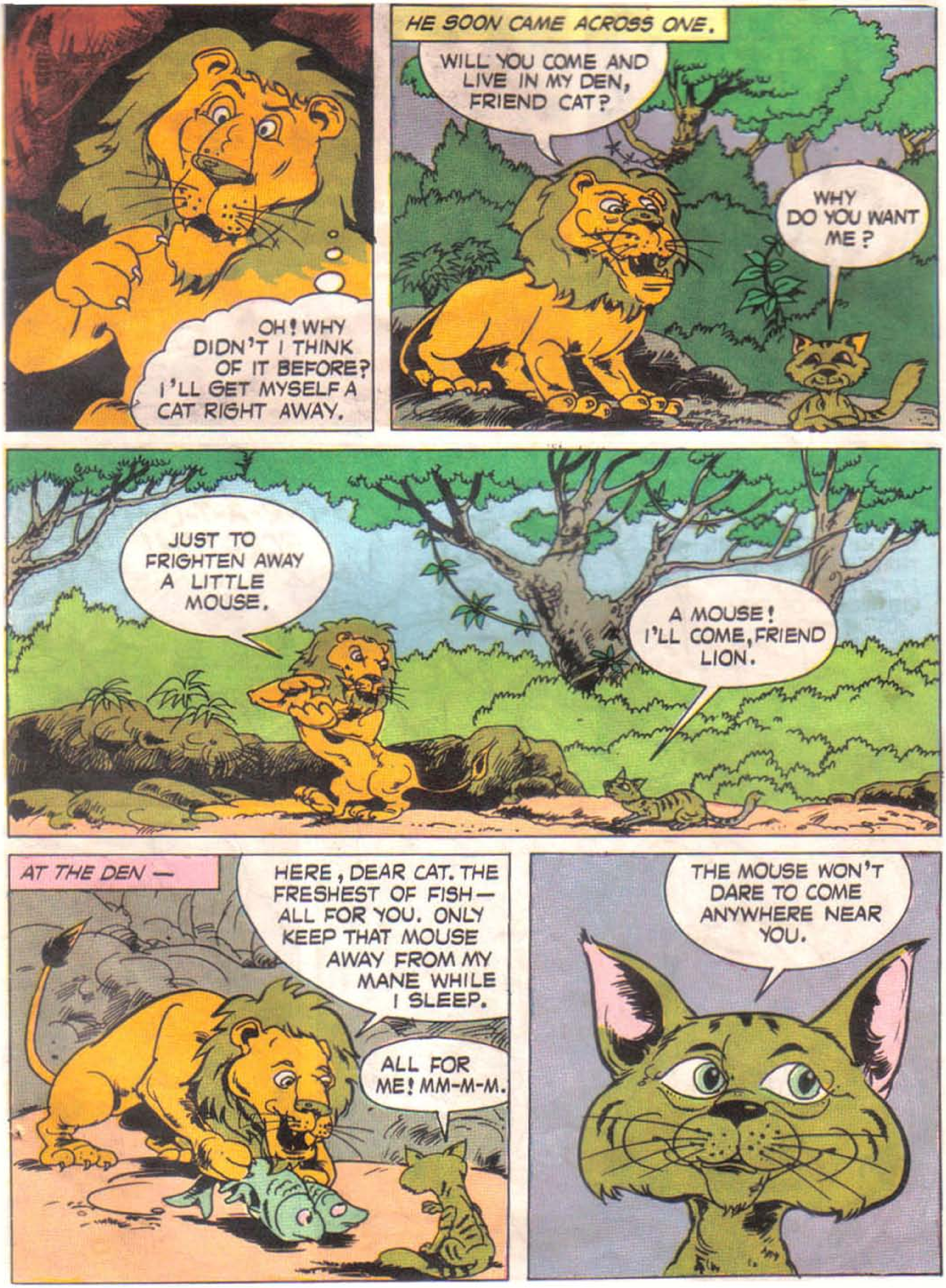

THE BULL, MEANWHILE, HAD COME NEAR THE DEN.
THE JACKAL WAS RIGHT. HIS MAJESTY HAS CRUEL INTENTIONS. I WILL NOT DIE WITHOUT A FIGHT.
HE LOWERED HIS HORNS AND CHARGED.
THE LION SOON KILLED HIM. AS HE STOOD STARING AT THE CARCASS OF THE BULL, A WEIRD SOUND CAUGHT HIS EARS.
HE! HE! HE! HE! HE! HE!
WHAT'S THAT I HEAR? THE GLEEFUL HOWL OF THE JACKALS! AH, I HAVE LET THE CUNNING JACKALS OUT-WIT ME AND PART ME FROM A TRUE FRIEND!

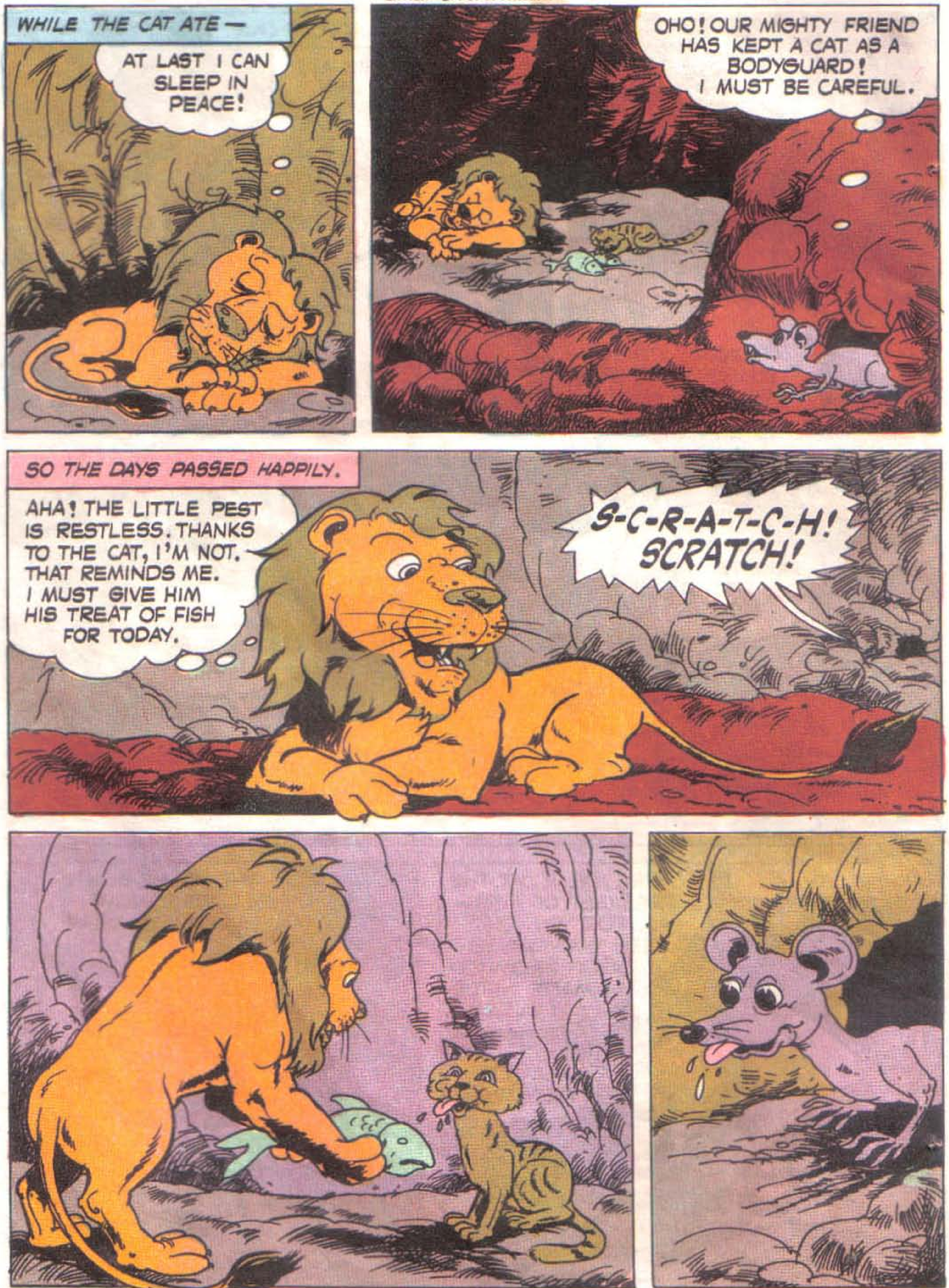

THE WASHERMAN'S JACKASS
LONG AGO, THERE LIVED AN ASS AND A DOG WHO BELONGED TO A WASHERMAN OF VARANASI.
ALL IS QUIET. IT'S BEEN A HARD DAY. TONIGHT I SHALL SLEEP LIKE A LOG.
THERE! HE HAS ONCE AGAIN FORGOTTEN TO GIVE ME MY DINNER.
A FEW HOURS LATER —
GOOD! HE'S FAST ASLEEP. I'M LUCKY. I CAN BEGIN FILLING MY SACK.
GOOD LORD! IT'S A THIEF! AND THE MASTER IS FAST ASLEEP.

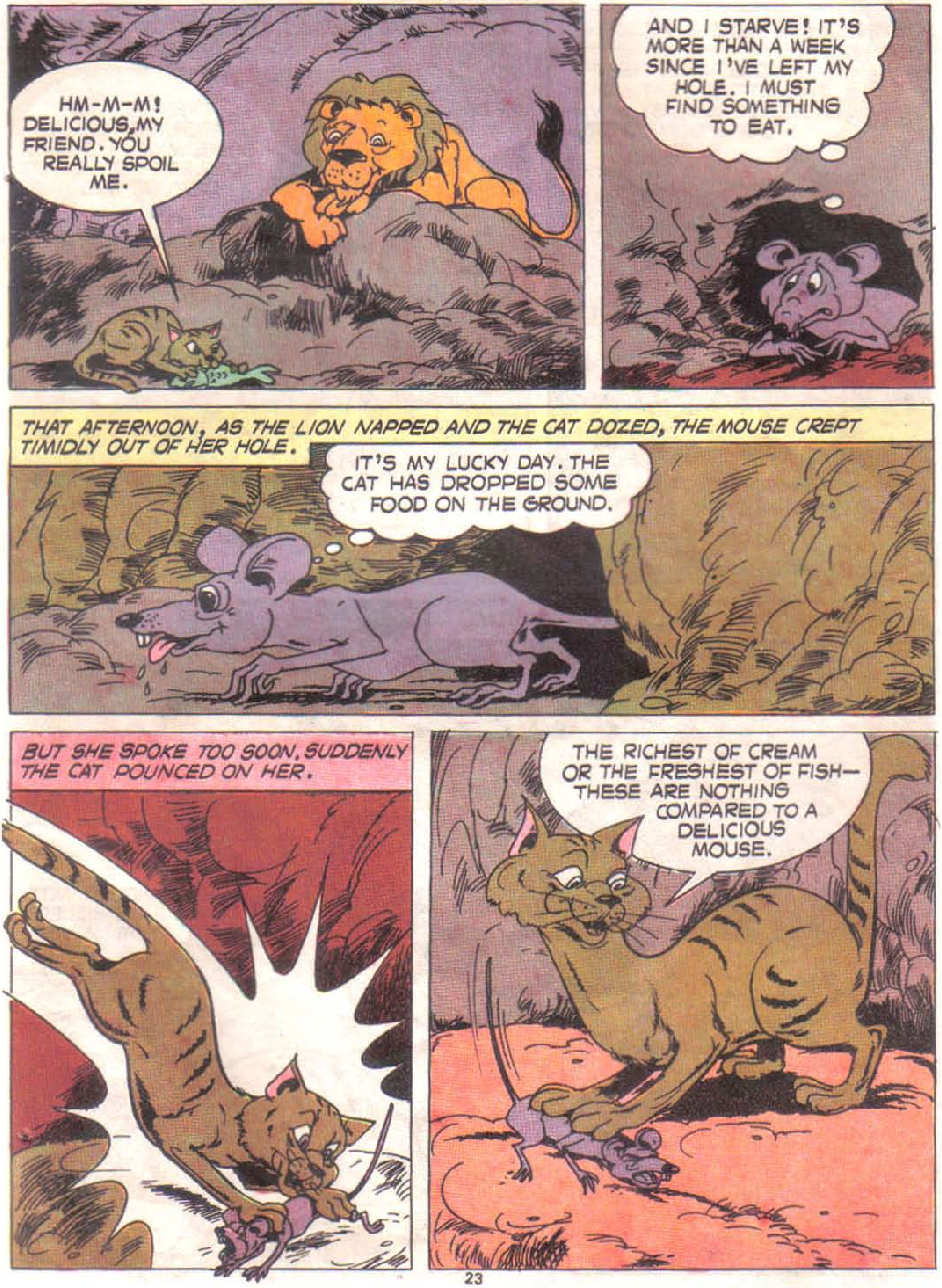

HE TURNED TO THE DOG.
LOOK! A THIEF IS CARRYING OFF OUR MASTER'S GOODS. WHY DON'T YOU BARK AND WAKE HIM UP?
WHY SHOULD I? OUR MASTER NEGLECTS ME. A LITTLE FRIGHT WILL REMIND HIM THAT HE NEEDS ME AND MUST LOOK AFTER ME BETTER.
THE ASS WAS FURIOUS.
HOW CAN YOU LET OUR MASTER DOWN, YOU UNFAITHFUL, UNGRATEFUL CUR?
SHOULD I BE GRATEFUL FOR BEING NEGLECTED? NO. I WILL NOT WAKE HIM UP.
THEN I WILL, BEFORE THE THIEF GOES. I'D BETTER BE QUICK!
HE-HAW! HE-HAW!


THE SILLY ASS! HE'LL WAKE UP THE WHOLE NEIGHBOURHOOD.
THE WASHERMAN WOKE UP WITH A START AND WENT TO THE WINDOW. BUT, BY THEN, THE THIEF HAD GOT AWAY.
THAT STUPID ASS HAS RUINED MY SLEEP. I'LL TEACH HIM TO BRAY AT ODD HOURS!
GRABBING A CUDGEL HE RUSHED OUT INTO THE YARD...
UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU THE THIEF HAS GOT AWAY AND THE MASTER DOES NOT KNOW WHY YOU BRAYED SO LOUDLY.
...AND BEAT THE ASS MERCILESSLY.
WHAM
THE DOG SHOOK HIS HEAD IN PITY.
POOR ASS. IF ONLY YOU HAD STUCK TO YOUR DUTIES INSTEAD OF TRYING TO PERFORM MINE, WOULD YOU HAVE SUFFERED THIS FATE?


THE CAT WHO SERVED A LION
ONCE UPON A TIME THERE LIVED A LION. HE WAS A MIGHTY BEAST BEFORE WHOM ALL TREMBLED...
...ALL EXCEPT A TINY MOUSE.
HA! HA! YOUR FINE MANE WILL MAKE A SOFT BED FOR MY LITTLE ONES WHEN THEY COME.
DAY AFTER DAY THE MOUSE NIBBLED AT THE LION'S MANE AS HE SLEPT IN HIS DEN.
EACH DAY WHEN THE LION WOKE UP—
AGAIN! MORE OF MY MAGNIFICENT MANE HAS GONE!
AH! THERE YOU ARE. WAIT TILL I CATCH YOU.
BUT THE LITTLE MOUSE QUICKLY SCUTTLED INTO HER HOLE.
SHE'S GONE! WELL, MICE ARE NOT MY PREY. I'M NO CAT.

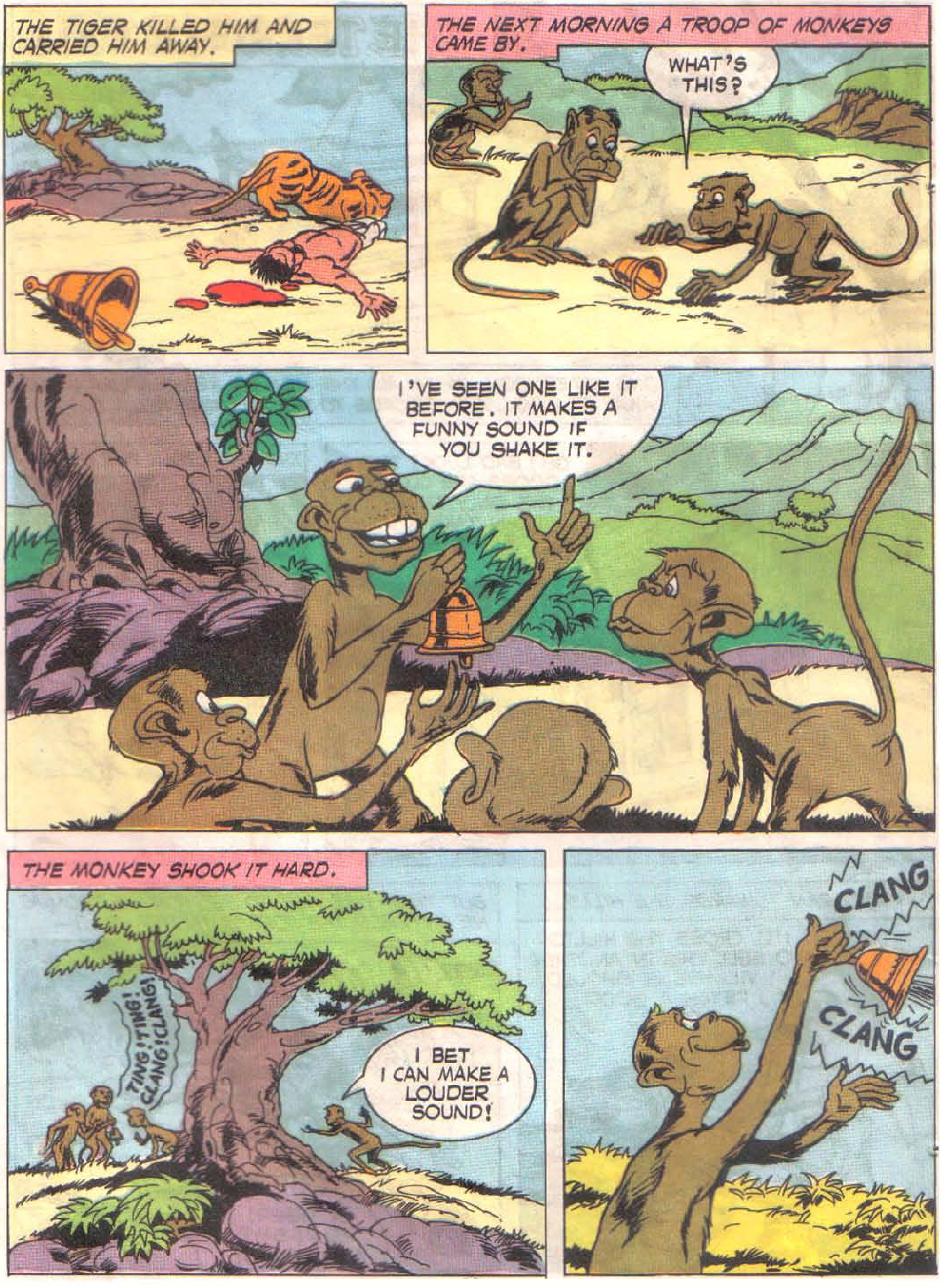

OH! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF IT BEFORE? I'LL GET MYSELF A CAT RIGHT AWAY.
HE SOON CAME ACROSS ONE.
WILL YOU COME AND LIVE IN MY DEN, FRIEND CAT?
WHY DO YOU WANT ME?
JUST TO FRIGHTEN AWAY A LITTLE MOUSE.
A MOUSE! I'LL COME, FRIEND LION.
AT THE DEN —
HERE, DEAR CAT. THE FRESHEST OF FISH— ALL FOR YOU. ONLY KEEP THAT MOUSE AWAY FROM MY MANE WHILE I SLEEP.
ALL FOR ME! MM-M-M.
THE MOUSE WON'T DARE TO COME ANYWHERE NEAR YOU.

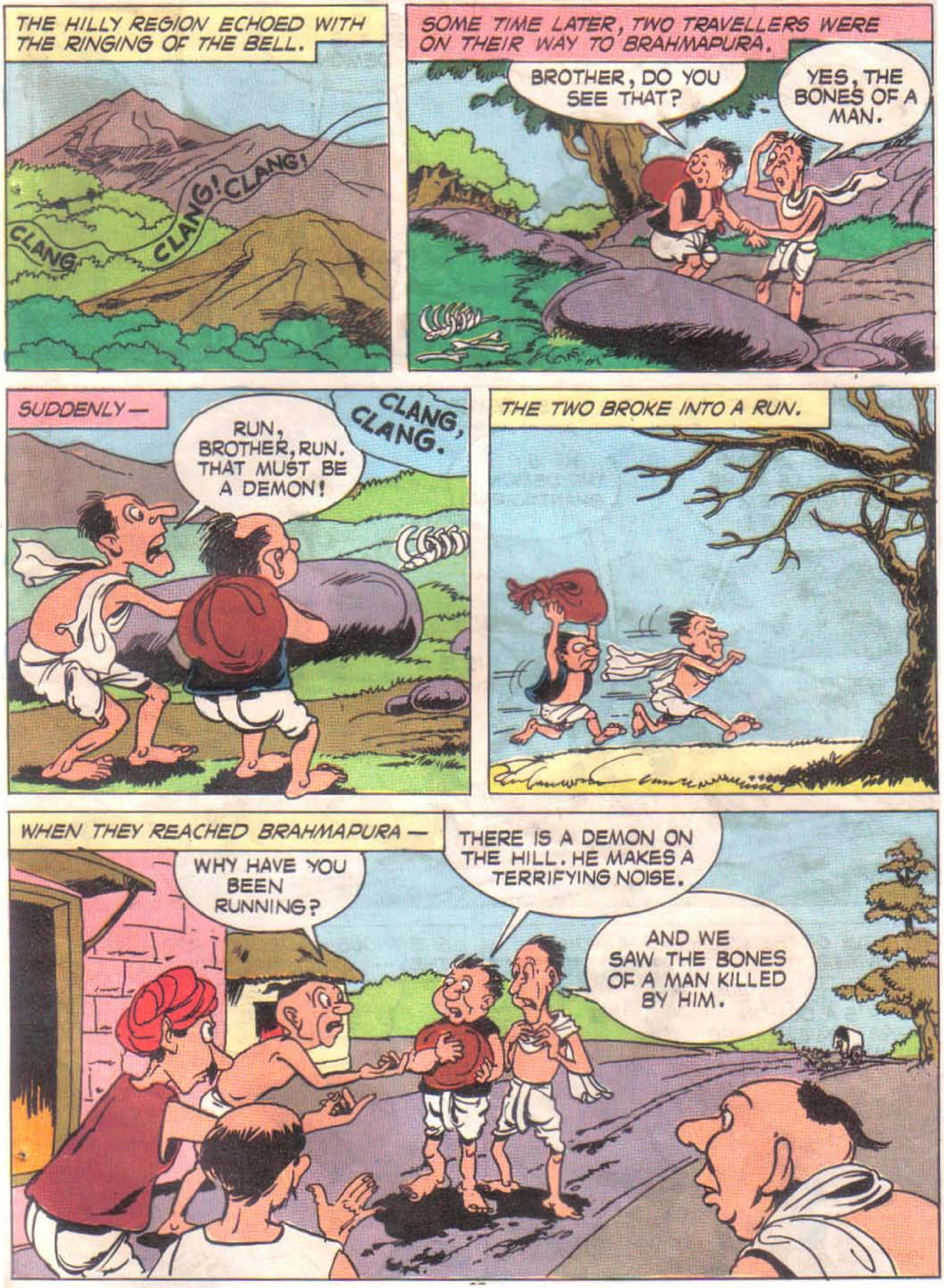

WHILE THE CAT ATE —
AT LAST I CAN SLEEP IN PEACE!
OHO! OUR MIGHTY FRIEND HAS KEPT A CAT AS A BODYGUARD! I MUST BE CAREFUL.
SO THE DAYS PASSED HAPPILY.
AHA! THE LITTLE PEST IS RESTLESS. THANKS TO THE CAT, I'M NOT. THAT REMINDS ME. I MUST GIVE HIM HIS TREAT OF FISH FOR TODAY.
S-C-R-A-T-C-H! SCRATCH!

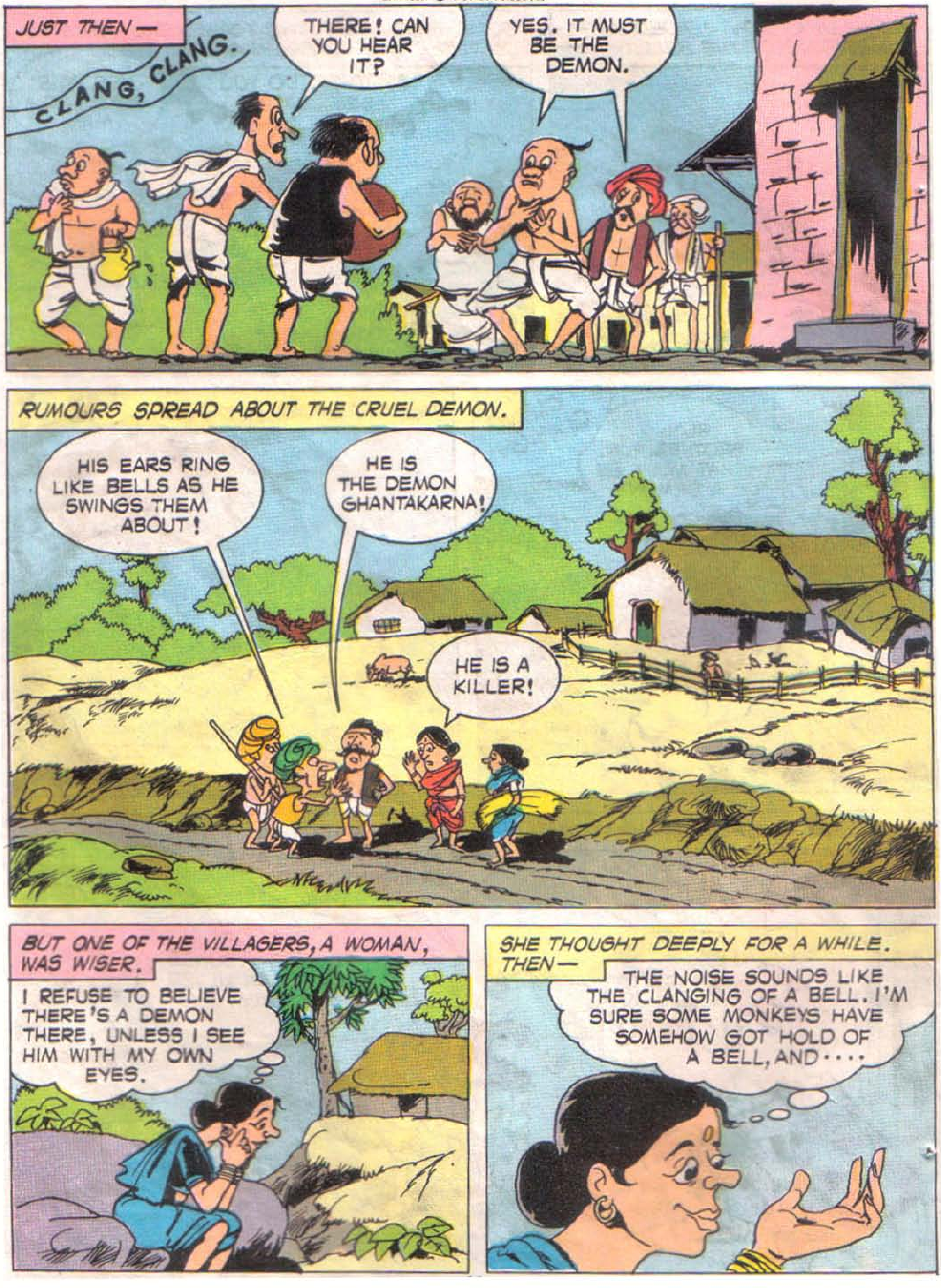

HM-M-M! DELICIOUS, MY FRIEND. YOU REALLY SPOIL ME.
AND I STARVE! IT'S MORE THAN A WEEK SINCE I'VE LEFT MY HOLE. I MUST FIND SOMETHING TO EAT.
THAT AFTERNOON, AS THE LION NAPPED AND THE CAT DOZED, THE MOUSE CREPT TIMIDLY OUT OF HER HOLE.
IT'S MY LUCKY DAY. THE CAT HAS DROPPED SOME FOOD ON THE GROUND.
BUT SHE SPOKE TOO SOON. SUDDENLY THE CAT POUNCED ON HER.
THE RICHEST OF CREAM OR THE FRESHEST OF FISH— THESE ARE NOTHING COMPARED TO A DELICIOUS MOUSE.

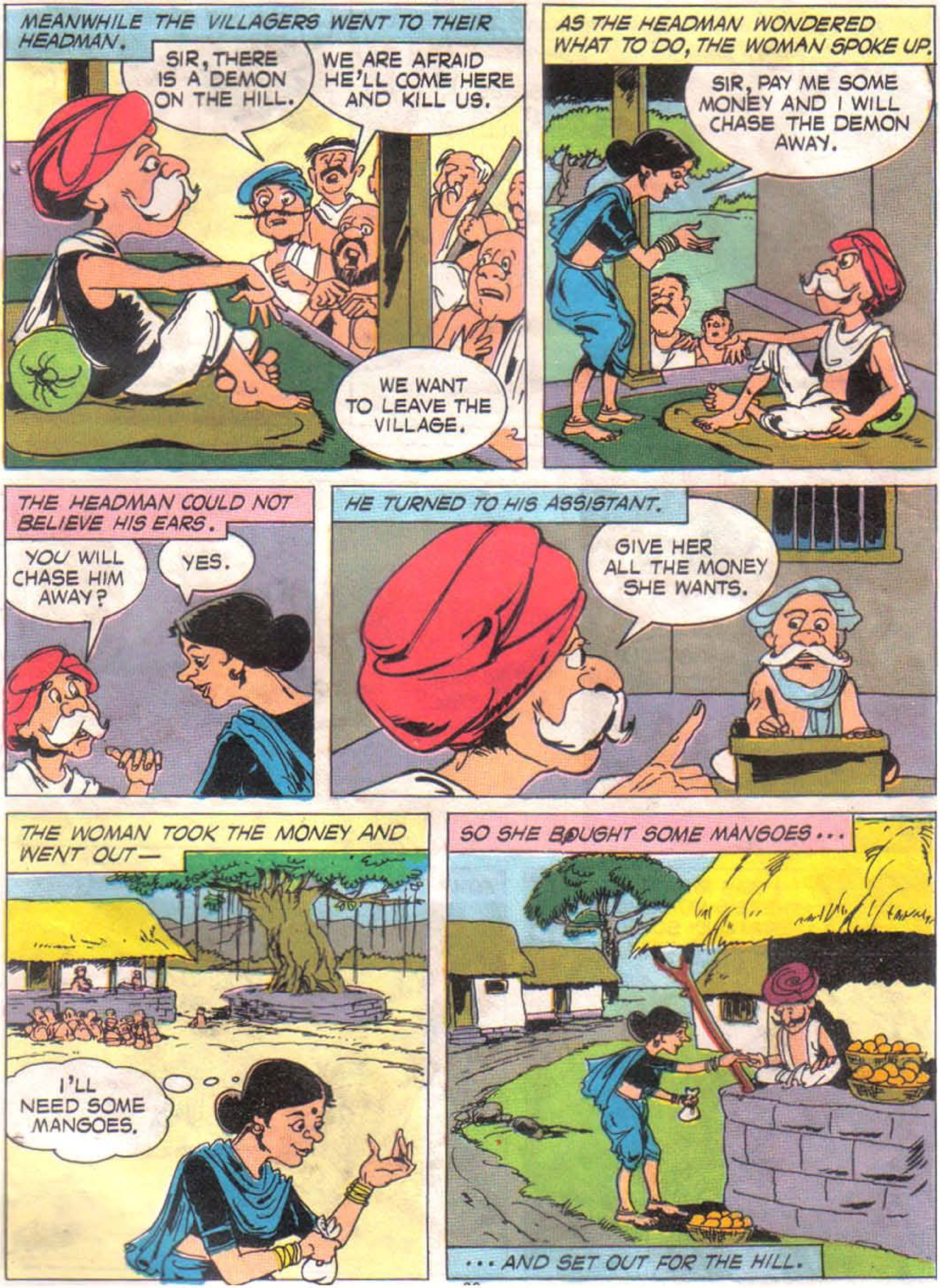

BUT THE CAT HAD BEEN TOO HASTY.
I NO LONGER HEAR THE LITTLE PEST MOVE ABOUT. SHE MUST HAVE GONE SOMEWHERE ELSE.
AS THE DAYS PASSED, THE LION NO LONGER NEEDING THE CAT'S SERVICES, DID NOT BOTHER TO FEED HIM.
FRIEND LION, I'M HUNGRY.
THEN GO AND CATCH YOURSELF SOME MICE. I'D LIKE TO SLEEP NOW. DON'T DISTURB ME.
THE CAT LEFT THE DEN, A WISER ANIMAL.
I'VE BEEN A FOOL! I SHOULD NOT HAVE KILLED THAT MOUSE.

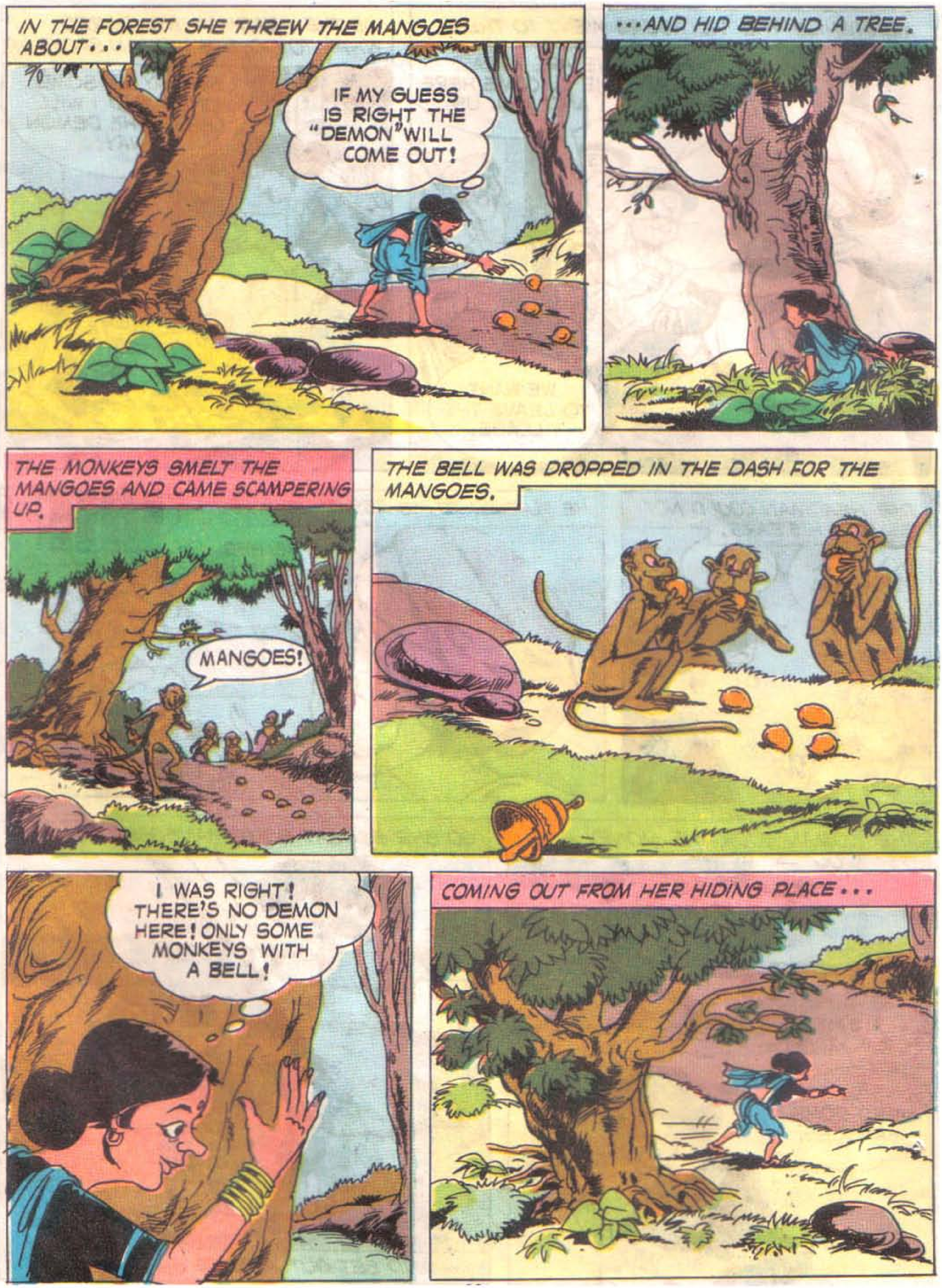

THE TERRIBLE BELL
ONE AFTERNOON, WHEN ALL THE MEN OF BRAHMAPURA WERE AWAY AT WORK, A THIEF CAME TO THE VILLAGE TEMPLE.
OH! BAD LUCK! THE DOORS ARE CLOSED. THE ONLY THING I CAN TAKE AWAY IS THE BELL.
THE THIEF TOOK THE BELL...
...AND RAN TOWARDS THE HILLS.
I'LL CROSS THE HILLTOP AND SELL THIS IN ANOTHER VILLAGE. IT SHOULD FETCH A GOOD PRICE.
BUT THAT WAS NOT TO BE. FOR AS SOON AS HE ENTERED THE FOREST IN THE HILLS—
A TIGER! HELP! SAVE ME! E-E-AH!


THE TIGER KILLED HIM AND CARRIED HIM AWAY.
THE NEXT MORNING A TROOP OF MONKEYS CAME BY.
WHAT'S THIS?
I'VE SEEN ONE LIKE IT BEFORE. IT MAKES A FUNNY SOUND IF YOU SHAKE IT.
THE MONKEY SHOOK IT HARD.
TING! TING! CLANG! CLANG!
I BET I CAN MAKE A LOUDER SOUND!
CLANG
CLANG

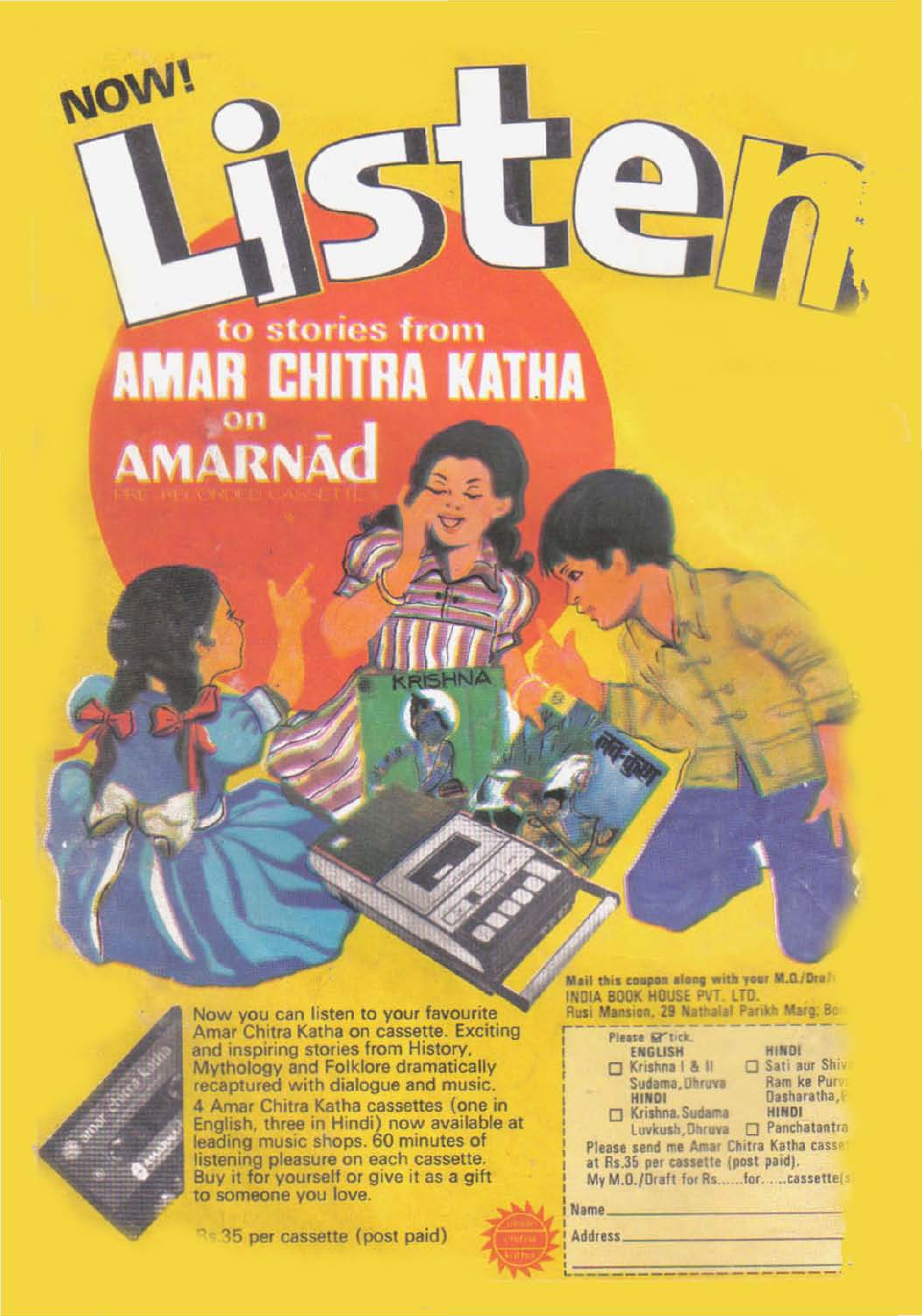

THE HILLY REGION ECHOED WITH THE RINGING OF THE BELL.
CLANG CLANG! CLANG! CLANG!
SOME TIME LATER, TWO TRAVELLERS WERE ON THEIR WAY TO BRAHMAPURA.
BROTHER, DO YOU SEE THAT?
YES, THE BONES OF A MAN.
SUDDENLY —
CLANG, CLANG.
RUN, BROTHER, RUN. THAT MUST BE A DEMON!
THE TWO BROKE INTO A RUN.
WHEN THEY REACHED BRAHMAPURA —
WHY HAVE YOU BEEN RUNNING?
THERE IS A DEMON ON THE HILL. HE MAKES A TERRIFYING NOISE.
AND WE SAW THE BONES OF A MAN KILLED BY HIM.


JUST THEN —
CLANG, CLANG.
THERE! CAN YOU HEAR IT?
YES. IT MUST BE THE DEMON.
RUMOURS SPREAD ABOUT THE CRUEL DEMON.
HIS EARS RING LIKE BELLS AS HE SWINGS THEM ABOUT!
HE IS THE DEMON GHANTAKARNA!
HE IS A KILLER!
BUT ONE OF THE VILLAGERS, A WOMAN, WAS WISER.
I REFUSE TO BELIEVE THERE'S A DEMON THERE, UNLESS I SEE HIM WITH MY OWN EYES.
SHE THOUGHT DEEPLY FOR A WHILE. THEN—
THE NOISE SOUNDS LIKE THE CLANGING OF A BELL. I'M SURE SOME MONKEYS HAVE SOMEHOW GOT HOLD OF A BELL, AND....


MEANWHILE THE VILLAGERS WENT TO THEIR HEADMAN.
SIR, THERE IS A DEMON ON THE HILL.
WE ARE AFRAID HE'LL COME HERE AND KILL US.
WE WANT TO LEAVE THE VILLAGE.
AS THE HEADMAN WONDERED WHAT TO DO, THE WOMAN SPOKE UP.
SIR, PAY ME SOME MONEY AND I WILL CHASE THE DEMON AWAY.
THE HEADMAN COULD NOT BELIEVE HIS EARS.
YOU WILL CHASE HIM AWAY?
YES.
HE TURNED TO HIS ASSISTANT.
GIVE HER ALL THE MONEY SHE WANTS.
THE WOMAN TOOK THE MONEY AND WENT OUT—
I'LL NEED SOME MANGOES.
SO SHE BOUGHT SOME MANGOES...
...AND SET OUT FOR THE HILL.


IN THE FOREST SHE THREW THE MANGOES ABOUT...
IF MY GUESS IS RIGHT THE "DEMON" WILL COME OUT!
...AND HID BEHIND A TREE.
THE MONKEYS SMELT THE MANGOES AND CAME SCAMPERING UP.
MANGOES!
THE BELL WAS DROPPED IN THE DASH FOR THE MANGOES.
I WAS RIGHT! THERE'S NO DEMON HERE! ONLY SOME MONKEYS WITH A BELL!
COMING OUT FROM HER HIDING PLACE...


. . . SHE GRABBED THE BELL . . .
. . . RAN BACK TO THE VILLAGE . . .
. . . AND WENT TO THE HEADMAN.
HERE IS YOUR DEMON! THE TERRIBLE SOUND CAME FROM THIS HARMLESS TEMPLE BELL.
IT WAS CLEVER OF YOU TO HAVE GUESSED THE TRUTH. YOU WILL BE REWARDED.
THE HEADMAN REWARDED HER AND FROM THAT DAY ON SHE BECAME THE MOST RESPECTED PERSON IN BRAHMAPURA.



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